



**CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF
FREDERICKSBURG, INC.
HARDTACK**



FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

**From the President's Desk
February 2026**

Mother Nature played a pivotal role in our plans for the January 28th dinner/presentation. Of course, our sincere apologies to Ms. Karen Stone for our not being able to host and enjoy her presentation. We had more than 98 members and their guests scheduled to attend our dinner and presentation at the Jepson Center, but snow and ice came instead to visit us....badly. Taking into consideration the weather, snow, ice, the lack of available parking, and the ability of our members to safely navigate slippery sidewalks, I made the call to cancel our January meeting of the Round Table.

Our Round Table will gather once again on February 25th when Dr. Doug Douds will present "A Comparative Analysis of General George G. Meade and General Robert E. Lee's Command Leadership at Gettysburg." This should be a great presentation, one that our Round Table members are looking forward to hearing.

Weather permitting, and with a promissory nod from Mother Nature, I look forward to seeing our members and their guests gather at the Jepson Center at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday the 25th. As always, we ask that you please contact Ms. Elizabeth Daly with your reservations prior to noon, on the 23 of February so that Elizabeth has an accurate count for the MWU catering service. Elizabeth's email is: elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com.

I urge you all to please be safe, stay warm, and invite a guest to join with you at our February dinner/meeting.

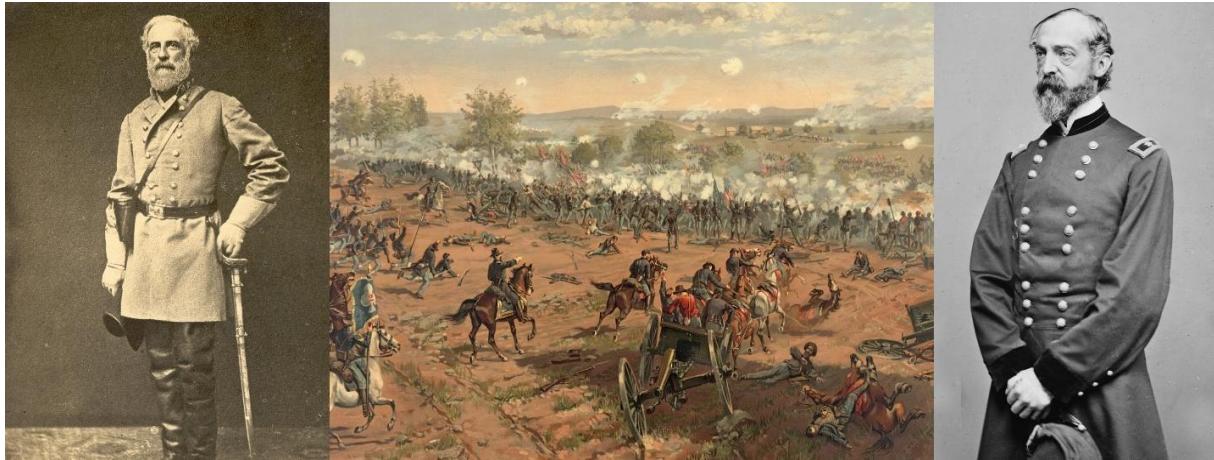
It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the Civil War Round Table.

Thank you,

Bruce H. "Doc" Norton - President

FEBRUARY 25, 2026 MEETING

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF MEADE AND LEE'S COMMANDING MACHINES AT GETTYSBURG



Staff work is one of the least studied aspects of the Civil War. Army leadership is a collective activity. At Gettysburg, Meade and Lee employed commanding machines — senior subordinate commanders and staff officers — to lead their armies. Dr. Douglas Douds will analyze the differences between the “commanding machines” of Meade’s Army of the Potomac and Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia during the Battle of Gettysburg. He will compare their structure and processes, giving insights into the battle’s outcome.

SPEAKER: DR. DOUGLAS G. DOUDS

Doug Douds, of Stroudsburg, PA, is a retired Marine Colonel and faculty member at the U.S. Army War College where he directs the Advanced Strategic Art Program. He has served as a strategist and senior speechwriter for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He commanded a Marine F/A-18 squadron in Iraq. As pilot, he accrued over 3,000 flight hours, 340 aircraft carrier traps, and 135 combat missions over Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq and is a graduate of the Navy Fighter Weapons School (Top Gun). Douds received two Bachelors of Arts degrees in political science and history from Wake Forest University, a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the Army War College and holds a Doctorate in Military History from Leeds University, England. He has appeared as a subject matter expert on History Channel and Netflix documentaries *Grant*, *Abraham Lincoln*, *Theodore Roosevelt*, *The Great War*, *FDR*,



D-Day, and *Churchill at War*. He is also a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg where he lives with his wife.

SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP

Special thanks to Steve and Terry Fox for their sponsorship of this month's program. Please consider sponsoring a program. It's a great way to support our Round Table.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

March 25, 2026	Ashley Whitehead Luskey - <i>The Richmond Bread Riots</i>
April 22, 2026	Dennis Frye - <i>John Brown: Igniting the Keg</i>
May 27, 2026	Hampton Newsome – <i>The Appomattox Campaign</i>
June 17, 2026	Christopher Grasso – <i>Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: John Kelso (Zoom)</i>

For a complete list of Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg presentations see:
<http://www.cwrtf.org/Program-Year-2025-2026>

Rappahannock Civil War Round Table

March 9, 2026	Madeline Thompson - <i>Clara Barton</i>
April 13, 2026	Brad Gottfried – <i>TBD</i>
May 11, 2026	Michael Hardy – <i>Feeding Lee's Army of Northern Virginia</i>
June 8, 2026	Aaron Siever – <i>Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic</i>

Civil War Round Table Congress Friday Lectures

The Civil War Round Table Congress presents free online lectures at 7 pm on most Fridays. Forthcoming sessions are:

Feb 13, 2026	James Pula – <i>The 117th New York Infantry</i>
Feb 20, 2026	Terry Barkley – <i>September Mourn: The Dunker Church of Antietam</i>
Feb 27, 2026	Eddie Vaughn – <i>The Secession of Louisiana</i>
Mar 6, 2026	Lance Herdegren – <i>The Iron Brigade in Civil War & Memory</i>
Mar 13, 2026	Neil Chatelain – <i>Treasure & Empire: The Panama Canal, the West, and the Campaigns to Control America's Mineral Wealth</i>

For registration and a complete listing of the Civil War Round Table Congress lectures visit:
<https://www.cwrtcongress.org/future-events/fridays.html>

The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College is offering members of Civil War Roundtables a 15% discount to attend the 2026 CWI Summer Conference, June 12-17. To learn more visit: <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/>

For other lectures, meetings, and other civil war events please see our website calendar, <http://www.cwrtf.org/view-calendar>.

Hello Friends,

The Ladies Memorial Association has ordered 50 more flat stones. They should arrive at the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery late March 2026. The physical installation is estimated to take place on a day in late April - May 2026 and before Memorial Day weekend.

For 6 plus years, members of CWRT of Fredericksburg have volunteered to support the LMA by handling the logistics, planning and physical installation of the stones. Recently, the LMA announced changes to the process. There will be another timely passing of the torch so to speak. We are asking for another person to become the lead volunteer for the physical installation of the stones on this worthwhile project. We thank Mike Burns, Kevin and Thena Jones and Dave Bohmke for their leadership and years of contributions. Kevin Jones will be available to provide his advice, guidance and support to the next volunteer. Please help continue this tradition and step up and fill this need. Kevin Jones can be reached at Jones.kevin45@gmail.com.

Thank you very much,
CWRT of Fredericksburg
Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE FEBRUARY 2026

I have written before in this space about the commemoration for the Semiquincentennial. The Board is working on a plan where the CWRTF will stage a special program to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the USA. We are looking for Civil War cultural presentations as part of this meeting including music, poetry, recitations of documents and perhaps old letters. Perhaps some equipment demonstrations, as well.

Picking up a thread from last month's Membership Minute, we are pleased about all our members who continue to bring guests to our monthly meetings who then decide to join! Our last two meetings had nearly 100 sign ups! The sign of a healthy roundtable is where all members contribute to both member recruitment and member retention.

Do you know of a member who no longer attends? Let us know and we will attempt to contact them pulsing their interest in rejoining.

As part of our recent efforts to create a set of administrative instructions, the committee convened to draft the instructions recommended with two significant, special sub-working groups to research and advise on a new website design and to review potential partnerships for the CWRTF.

The logic for creating new partnerships is to both contribute to the civic life and vitality to the region, to promote the activities and initiatives of the partnership, and as a potential source of new members.

One such partnership that is under consideration is to partner with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and the Ancient and Honorable Hibernians (AoH) to purchase and erect in Fredericksburg a statue of a member of the Irish Brigade (see photo below). The AoH and other Irish American groups have commissioned a design, created a maquette, and have a design budget set at \$130,000. The leadership of the effort is looking for help from the CWRTF to:

- Most critical our participation.
- Leverage its knowledge and familiarity with related organizations (e.g. the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust) for sources of funding.
- Assistance in networking, advertising, and related fundraising

Successful past efforts include:

- A bronze raised relief sculpture honoring 18th century Irish émigré Col. John Fitzgerald. He was an Alexandria civic leader and mayor, George Washington's aid de camp, founder of the first Catholic parish in Virginia. This is sculpture located at the Basilica of Saint Mary in Alexandria.
- A monument to the 30 Irish citizens killed in action while serving in the U.S. Military in Viet Nam. This sculpture is located in Ennis, County Clare, Ireland. (FYI: one of the names engraved into the marble monument is Lance Corporal Patrick Gallagher. The USS Patrick Gallagher (DDG 127) is/soon will be based in Norfolk, VA.)

Additionally, the CWRTF is working on carving out a role for our membership to play as Fredericksburg commemorates the 300th anniversary of its founding. Currently the city has created a special Blue-Ribbon Commission to advise the Council and appropriate series of events to celebrate this very special event.

Finally, follow the VA250 activities of our many Fredericksburg civic organizations holding commemoration events. Among the major organizations planning events include the George Washington Foundation, the Fredericksburg Area Museum, the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc., Fredericksburg Sister City Organization, the National Park Service, and many others.

Comments, ideas, thoughts, all are welcome! We are soliciting program suggestions for a 250th special culture meeting to be held this summer. Hit me up at historycwrft@gmail.com with your ideas.

Until next time, “may love of country lead you!”

David W Hamon



MEETINGS & RESERVATIONS

Meetings are held at the Jepson Alumni Executive Center, University of Mary Washington, 1119 Hanover St., Fredericksburg, VA. Cocktails start at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30 pm, and presentations at 7:30 pm. Please make your reservations for the February 25 meeting by noon February 23 by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com, or visiting our website at www.cwrtf.org. If you must cancel, please do so by noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.

OFFICERS

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Website: www.cwrtf.org

Email: info@cwrtf.org

-- CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.--

Membership Application

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home/Cell Phone Number: _____
Email: _____
Occupation: _____
Areas of Civil War Interests: _____
Other Civil War Round Table Memberships: _____

Membership Categories:

Individual	\$ 60.00	\$ _____
Individual (dual Round Table Member):	\$ 50.00	\$ _____
Family (all persons of the same household):	\$110.00	\$ _____
Family (dual Round Table Member):	\$100.00	\$ _____
Sustaining Member:	\$120.00	\$ _____
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:		\$ _____

Consider a Donation to be the Sponsor of a Guest Speaker for \$250.00