



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



**MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER**

---

**From the President's Desk**

**May 2026**

May is a very important month for the CWRT of Fredericksburg for several reasons. First, this is the month when the CWRT Board nominates new officers to fill the ranks of President, Vice President, and other Board Members whose obligations have been met serving a two-year term.

Secondly, May is the month when we meet the National Park Service intern. The intern will be presented with a check from the CWRT of Fredericksburg to help offset the cost of living large in Fredericksburg during his time in our beautiful city. This summer's intern is Mr. Gregg Smith. Gregg has recently finished his MA degree in history from James Madison University, with a focus on public history, and he has a strong interest in Civil War history. He has a career ambition of being a NPS interpreter, and we are excited to be a part of his career journey.

Last, and by no means least, our CWRT has two meetings remaining for the 2025-2026 year. We have exceeded our expectations for 2025/2026 with a record number of members, along with their guests, attending the exceptional presentations brought to the Jepson Executive Alumni Center each month. And, as President, I am most grateful to Dr. Jerre Wilson, Mr. David Hamon, and Mr. Scott Boyd, for doing such a fantastic job in finding the exceptional individuals -- those authors, professors, and historians who have provided us with such wonderful presentations each month. The CWRT of Fredericksburg is indebted to these gentlemen for doing such a great job.

Our 27 May presentation will be **The Appomattox Campaign**, and will be presented by well-known author and historian, **Mr. Hampton Newsome**. Mr. Newsome is an attorney who resides in Arlington, Virginia, and we are eager to welcome him as our guest speaker for the month of May.

**I ask everyone to please remember to make your reservations early, as Monday, May 25, is Memorial Day, and our Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Daly, needs to have our reservation**

**numbers in to MWU by Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. I encourage all members to bring a guest to the May meeting.**

It is a great honor and a privilege to serve as the President of the CWRT of Fredericksburg. I look forward to seeing you and your guests at our May meeting.

Most sincerely,  
Bruce H. "Doc" Norton – President CWRT of Fredericksburg

---



### **The Appomattox Campaign: Observations on Grant's Pursuit**

In early April 1865, Robert E. Lee and his army broke away from Richmond and Petersburg in a desperate gambit to reach Confederate troops in North Carolina. In response, Ulysses S. Grant unleashed his forces in a vigorous pursuit. Over the course of a grueling week, Grant and his lieutenants hounded the Confederate columns in a sprawling, dynamic campaign that culminated in Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House and signaled the end of the Civil War. Drawing from his upcoming book on the Appomattox Campaign, Hampton Newsome will explore various aspects of these operations including, among other things, the cooperation and conflict among members of the U.S. high command, the performance of Robert E. Lee and his generals, key maneuvers and engagements, logistical issues on both sides, and the efforts of intrepid Federal scouts among other issues.

## **SPEAKER: HAMPTON NEWSOME**

Hampton Newsome lives in Charlottesville and is author of several books on the Civil War, including *Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864*, which was recognized as a best book of the year by the *Civil War Monitor* magazine; and *The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864*, which received both the Emerging Civil War Book Award and the Richard Barksdale Harwell Award from the Atlanta Roundtable. His most recent title, *Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond*, received the Edwin C. Bearss Book Award for Outstanding Scholarship from the Chicago Civil War Roundtable as well as the Emerging Civil War 2023 Book of the Year. Recently, he completed a more than 30-year career as an attorney working on environmental and consumer issues.



## **SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP**

Special thanks to Kevin Rosseau and Sarah Lloyd for their sponsorship of this month's program. Please consider sponsoring a program. It's a great way to support our Round Table.

## **APRIL MEETING REVIEW**

Drawing on his extensive knowledge of the events surrounding Harper's Ferry, noted historian Dennis Frye provided a thought-provoking exploration of John Brown. Brown was considered a hero by many in the North and a villain by most in the South. Challenging the audience to think critically about Brown, Frye presented a balanced argument that Brown was the catalyst that lit the keg of the beginning of the Civil War. He noted that Brown failed in his main objective of inciting a revolt against slavery, but he solidified the decision of most southern states to secede. Frye argued that Brown didn't want to destroy the Constitution, he only wanted to destroy slavery. A religious man, Brown viewed himself as sent by God to help end slavery. While there were very differing opinions on John Brown, all would agree that he had a profound effect on American history.



### **The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.**

- Jun 17, 2026 Christopher Grasso – *Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: John Kelso (Zoom)*
- Sep 23, 2026 Scott Hippensteel – *Civil War Forensics: Investigating Battlefield Photographs Through a Critical Lens*
- Oct 28, 2026 Jonathan Noyalas – *General Phil Sheridan: Life, War, & Memory*

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

### **Rappahannock Civil War Round Table**

- Jun 8, 2026 Aaron Siever – *Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic*
- Jul 13, 2026 Jeff Joyce – *Graffiti House*
- Aug 10, 2026 Sarah Bierle – *Glorious Courage: The Life of John Pelham*

### **Civil War Round Table Congress Friday Lectures**

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

- May 15, 2026 Bert Dunkerly – *The Lower Battlefield of Antietam*
- May 22, 2026 Steven Magnusen – *The Dawes Brothers in Battle*
- Jun 5, 2026 Jared Peatman – *A Hell of a Regiment: 20<sup>th</sup> Maine at Gettysburg*
- Jun 19, 2026 Jere Nash – *Reconstruction in Mississippi, 1862 – 1877*
- Jun 26, 2026 Thomas Jessee – *Robert E. Lee Before the Civil War*

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.cwrtof.org/view-calendar>.

---

## TREASURER'S NOTE

The CWRTF will hold its Annual Business Meeting this month. During the meeting, the board will provide a twenty-minute overview regarding the future direction of the organization.

Due to rising expenses and fixed income, we are adjusting our rate structure to ensure the table's financial sustainability. For the 2026-27 Program Year that begins this September, the following costs and income initiatives will be in effect:

Monthly Dinner/Meeting Price:

- Members: \$40 per plate
- Guests: \$40 per plate for the first two events; \$50 per plate thereafter

Membership Annual Dues: There will be no change to annual dues at this time.

Additionally, a new construct will be introduced to enable Membership Donations.

---

### Honor Our Legacy Program Year 2026-27 Tiered Donation Program

Donations and sponsorship are vital to maintaining the financial stability of our Round Table. To encourage and recognize donations, the Board proposes to implement a tiered system for contributions. While we will retain program sponsorship at the "Soldier" level, other tiers will identify contributions at various levels as outlined below. Donations will be acknowledged at monthly meetings.

Valor	\$2000+
Patriot	\$1000+
Family Heritage	\$ 500+
Soldiers	\$ 250+*
Volunteers	\$ 120+*
Conscripts	\$ 50+

\* Program Sponsorship is at the "Soldiers" Level; Sustained Membership is at the "Volunteer" level.

---

**ANNOUNCING OUR 4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FREDNATS  
BASEBALL TICKETS RAFFLE**

Fredericksburg Nationals Baseball Game – Friday, June 26, 2026, at 6:35 p.m.

Virginia Credit Union Stadium  
42 Jackie Robinson Way  
Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401

4 Tickets for great seats in the lower level on the first base side.

Enjoy an exciting fireworks display after the game! Please support our organization by buying raffle tickets. One ticket for \$5.00; Three tickets for \$10.00.

---

**FLAT STONES PLACEMENT**

Hello Friends,

The Ladies Memorial Association had ordered 50 more flat stones, and they have been delivered to the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery. The physical installation is estimated to take place on a Saturday in late May or in October, 2026.

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](mailto:Jones.kevin45@gmail.com).

Thank you very much,  
CWRT of Fredericksburg  
Board of Directors

---

## MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

MAY 2026

**Answers to trivia questions from April: A form of punishment whereby the offender was made to wear a wooden barrel with the crime labeled on it.**

**Elmer E. Elsworth**

For our meeting in June, we will welcome the visitation of seven members of the Twin Cities (MN) Civil War Round Table, our “sister Round Table.”

In addition to joining us for the June meeting, the visitors will be touring the Fredericksburg area with the intention of touring the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania Battlefields.

If any member would like link up with the group from Minnesota and spend some time with them, let me know by dropping a line to my email address below. Their tour program is in flux, but there will be time set aside beginning the afternoon of 16 June followed by most of the day on 17 June (our meeting day) and all day on 18 June.

Having locals who know the area, especially history of the Civil War in Fredericksburg and the region, would enrich their visit. CWRTF member volunteers to aid in hosting our sister RT visitors would be most welcome!

This month, the Civil War Study Group nested in the Lake of the Woods will dedicate an interpretive panel of the United States Colored Troops’ contributions to the Overland Campaign. The panel was gifted to the community by the CWSGI and is located along the walking path at the bottom of Veterans Memorial Dam, opposite Shoemith Drive.

Those CWRTF members interested in visiting the new panel and site can contact Charles Brewer, CWSGI Secretary at [civilwarstudygroup@gmail.com](mailto:civilwarstudygroup@gmail.com). Visitors need to be cleared to enter the gated community of Lake of the Woods.

From their website:

“Union General Ulysses Grant’s Overland Campaign began at The Wilderness and was the start of an inexorable series of confrontations that ended with the April 9, 1865, surrender of Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox. Grant’s forces at The Wilderness were a combination of the Army of the Potomac, under the leadership of General George Meade, and the Ninth Corps, under the leadership of General Ambrose Burnside. Given his experience in the Western Theater of the War, Grant explicitly requested United States Colored Troops (USCT). These were added as the Fourth Division of Burnside’s Ninth Corps. While at The Wilderness the 4th DIV was charged with guarding the supply train, on May 15 during the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse they entered combat for the first time against Lee’s Confederate forces. At about 3,500, the USCT units were but a small part of the over 200,000 men who served in the USCT throughout the Union Army in the last two

years of the Civil War. The 4th DIV were present throughout the Overland Campaign. The Division also fought at the Battle of the Crater, the Siege of Petersburg, and eventually Appomattox.”

They enlisted and served despite the fractured racist assumptions of their bravery and skill as soldiers from the Northern population. Additionally, they knew that if captured by the Confederates, they would be given no quarter. Finally, although shouldering the same burdens as other Union soldiers, they were not paid the same.

More information may be found on the CWSGI website. Visit <https://civilwarstudygroup.org/usct2025/> for a wealth of information on the local history of the USCT.

Your Board of Directors has laid the foundation for enhanced visitor and member experience at our monthly meetings. **We believe that more could be done in this regard:** a book study group, additional programs, potentially history tours, and more. But we'd love to hear from you! What additional activities would you like the CWRTF to organize?

We love hearing from our members! Please write us at the address below. Feedback, questions, comments, all encouraged.

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

David W. Hamon -- [historycwrtf@gmail.com](mailto:historycwrtf@gmail.com)

**Last Trivia Question of the Program Year: “At what battle did Gen. Lee try to lead a Texas brigade into battle?”**

The CWRTF is part of a group of organizations working with the City to erect a statue in Fredericksburg of an Irish Brigade Soldier. Please donate to this worthy effort. Scan the QR code with your phone or go to: [irishcultureva.org/donate](http://irishcultureva.org/donate). Alternatively, you can make your donation at one of our meetings. Our Treasurer, George Fenton, will collect and ensure your donation is deposited to the statue fund sponsored by the Irish Culture Society of Virginia.



---

### **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 May 27 meeting by noon on **Friday May 22** by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing [elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com), or visiting our website at [www.cwrtf.org](http://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**

President	Bruce "Doc" Norton	<a href="mailto:recondoc123@gmail.com">recondoc123@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Russell Willis	<a href="mailto:chipwillis3rd@gmail.com">chipwillis3rd@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Elizabeth "Beth" Daly	<a href="mailto:elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com">elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	George Fenton	<a href="mailto:gpfenton1974@gmail.com">gpfenton1974@gmail.com</a>

### **COMMITTEES**

Program	Jerre Wilson	<a href="mailto:maxdog222@gmail.com">maxdog222@gmail.com</a>
Membership	David Hamon	<a href="mailto:blungrey@gmail.com">blungrey@gmail.com</a>
Heritage	Basil Moncrief	<a href="mailto:red69hoss@yahoo.com">red69hoss@yahoo.com</a>

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bruce "Doc" Norton	Russell Willis	Elizabeth "Beth" Daly
George Fenton	Jerre Wilson	David Hamon
Paul T. Scott	Carolyn Elstner	John "Jack" Farrington
Stephen Fox	Jane Conner	Patricia Carle

Website: [www.cwrtof.org](http://www.cwrtof.org)

Email: [info@cwrtof.org](mailto:info@cwrtof.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