



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



SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

September 24, 2025 Meeting



**PROGRAM: COMMON MISPERCEPTIONS OF
THE CIVIL WAR IN 2025**

Americans cling to many misperceptions about the Civil War that get in the way of a solid understanding of the origins, progress, and outcome of the conflict. Gary Gallagher will discuss some of the most widely held by addressing four key questions. First, was United States victory inevitable because of an overwhelming advantage of men and material resources? Second, was Gettysburg the war's great turning point? Third, did the loyal citizenry of the United States make emancipation an equivalent goal to restoring the Union? Finally, was there a "lost moment" for genuine racial equality in the war's aftermath?

SPEAKER: GARY GALLAGHER (via ZOOM)

Gary W. Gallagher received his B.A. from Adams State College of Colorado (1972) and his M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1982) from the University of Texas at Austin. He began his academic career in 1986 at Penn State University, where he taught for twelve years. In 1998, he joined the faculty of the University of Virginia and held the John L. Nau III Professorship in the History of the American Civil War and served as the founding Director of the John L. Nau III Center for Civil War History. He is the author or editor of more than fifty books, including *The Confederate War* (1997), *Causes Won, Lost, and Forgotten: How Hollywood and Popular Art Shape What We Know About the Civil War*



(2008), *The Union War* (2011), *The Enduring Civil War: Reflections on the Great American Crisis* (2020), and *The American War: A History of the Civil War Era* (co-authored with Joan Waugh; 3rd ed., 2023). He presented a 48-lecture course on the Civil War for The Teaching Company and has participated in more than five dozen television projects in the field. He held the Cavaliers' Distinguished Teaching Professorship in 2010-2012 (the highest teaching award conveyed by the University of Virginia) and won the Philip Merrill Award for Outstanding Contributions to Liberal Arts Education from the American Council of Trustees and Alumni in 2013. Active in the field of historic preservation, he was president from 1987 to mid-1994 of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the forerunner of The Civil War Trust (now the American Battlefield Trust).

SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP

Special thanks to George Fenton for his 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.

October 22, 2025 From Ironclads to Admiral: Admiral John Worden
Speaker: John Quarstein

November 19, 2025 The Pathfinder and the President: John C. Fremont,
Abraham Lincoln and the Battle for Emancipation
Speaker: John Bicknell

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

The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

September 8, 2025 Antietam and Chancellorsville: Contrasts of Intelligence
Preparation of the Battlefield
Speaker: Gregory Elder

October 13, 2025 Dear Uncles: The Civil War Letters of Arthur McKinstry
Speaker: Rick Barram

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

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
Sustaining Member:	\$120
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

September 2025

Greetings to the Members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

We are looking forward to a new and exciting year of great speakers who will be sharing their stories with us at the Jepson Executive Alumni Center.

I am very pleased to announce that we will have a *very special guest* who will be joining us at our November 19th meeting of the Round Table. Mr. Ronald F. Maxwell, the Producer and Director of the great movies; *Gettysburg*, *Gods and Generals*, and *Copperhead* will be our guest that evening and we are honored to have him join us. Please let your friends know about Mr. Maxwell's appearance that evening and, hopefully, they will attend our November 19th meeting.

Additionally, I am very pleased to welcome our newest member of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg: Lt. Col. Sally Ann Falco, USMC (Ret.). Sally has recently relocated to the Fredericksburg area and she is a most welcomed addition to our Round Table membership.

As always, every member of the Round Table is encouraged to invite a prospective new member to attend our dinner/presentations. As we continue to grow, thank you all for making this happen.

I look forward to seeing all of you at our September 24th dinner/presentation, which will be a "Zoom Session" with Mr. Gary W. Gallagher presenting a lecture entitled "Common Misperceptions of the Civil War." Mr. Gallagher, a nationally-recognized historian, was the 2024 John L. Nau III, Professor in History of the American Civil War, at the University of Virginia and produced a lecture series on the Civil War for the Great Courses lecture series. We look forward to his presentation from California.

In closing, it is both a privilege and an honor to serve as the President of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

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

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 September 24 meeting on or before September 19 by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com, or visiting our website at www.cwrftf.org. If you must cancel, please do so by noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Welcome back to program year 2025-26. As you have surmised, we have an impressive lineup of speakers this year.

Please feel free to give the Program Committee your feedback on the topics, themes, and speakers.

As I write this, many of you have not renewed. Please reach out to our RT or me (see below) with questions or concerns. We value and treasure your membership! Please help us out by getting out among your networks and inviting prospective members to a meeting.

As we round the corner headed toward the 250th Anniversary of our Declaration of Independence, please take a few moments to provide some feedback on how our RT might either stage an event of commemoration or join forces with a community group to promote the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

By now, most of you have heard of the Semiquincentennial or the 250th Anniversary of our country. The old-timers out there will remember the 200th Anniversary in 1976. That observance was centered on the Revolutionary War and the battle for independence (I remember fondly the parade of tall ships). Is there a salient theme in the 250th? If you go to the Semiquincentennial Commission's website, <https://america250.org/americas-250th/> you'll find this:

“On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The journey toward this historic milestone is an opportunity to pause and reflect on our nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.”

On July 3, President Trump kicked off the year-long commemoration with a speech at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. Among his comments regarding America250 that day, he had this to say:

“We take our pride in our heritage, and we want it in a beautiful heritage that we have, and we teach our children to love our country, honor our history, and always respect our great American flag. You have to respect our flag. From Philadelphia to Phoenix, from Gettysburg to the Golden Gate Bridge, and from factories of Detroit to the fairgrounds of Des Moines, we stand on the shoulders of heroes and legends who crossed the oceans, blazed the trails, tamed the wilderness, settled the continent, raised up those beautiful skyscrapers, and stood tall and defiant in the face of tyranny and death.

From 1776 all the way through today, American patriots have won triumph after triumph, we’ve had victory after victory and let nothing stand in the way of the USA, which we love so much. It was hardworking citizens like you who won our independence, secured our liberty, and built this country with courage, grit, and skill.”

The end of the war and preservation of the Union in 1865 paved the way to this commemoration. Without it, there would be no 250th celebration. Let us hear from you on how the CWRTF might contribute to the local (Fredericksburg) events!

As usual, I would be interested in your views. **What are your suggestions to aid in the preservation of Civil War history?** How do we ensure the CWRTF survives? I would welcome your ideas and thoughts. Hit me up with your musings at historyCWRTF@gmail.com.

The best recruitment tool we have is you--our members--reaching out to acquaintances/neighbors/friends. A rack card slipped into the hand of a guest, along with an invitation to join from a member, is better than paid advertisements.

Until next month, *may love of country lead you.*

Write to David Hamon:
historyCWRTF@gmail.com

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

Membership Application

Name: _____
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
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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