



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



FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

February 26, 2025 Meeting

**PROGRAM: A REPUBLIC IN THE RANKS – LOYALTY AND DISSENT IN
THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC**



The Army of the Potomac was a hotbed of political activity during the Civil War. As a source of dissent widely understood as a frustration for Abraham Lincoln, its one-time commander, George B. McClellan, secured the Democratic nomination for president in 1864. Dr. Zachery Fry argues that the war was an intense political education for its common soldiers. He examines several key crisis points to show how enlisted men developed political awareness that went beyond personal loyalties. By studying the struggle between Republicans and Democrats for political allegiance among the army's rank and file, Dr. Fry reveals how captains, majors, and colonels spurred a pro-Republican political awakening among the enlisted men, culminating in the army's resounding Republican voice in state and national elections in 1864.

For decades, historians have been content to view the Army of the Potomac primarily through the prism of its general officer corps, portraying it as an arm of the Democratic Party loyal to McClellan's leadership and legacy. Dr. Fry, in contrast, shifts the story's emphasis to resurrect

the successful efforts of pro-administration junior officers who educated their men on the war's political dynamics and laid the groundwork for Lincoln's victory in 1864.

SPEAKER: DR. ZACHERY A. FRY

Zachery A. Fry is an associate professor in the Department of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. He received his PhD in military history in 2017 from the Ohio State University and has also served as a visiting assistant professor at the U.S. Military Academy, West Point. He's frequently found on weekends walking Eastern Theater battlefields with his wife and daughter, Merren.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
February 2025

Greetings to all members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

The November and January dinner/presentations were extremely well attended, thanks, in part, to the caliber of excellent guest speakers.

Our membership continues to grow as we approach the 115 membership mark. Our current membership stands at 108 (105 paid, 3 honorary). Hopefully, we will see new members at our February 26th meeting. As always, I encourage our members to **bring a guest(s)** to this meeting.

Our February presentation, on Wednesday the 26th, is titled: ***A Republic in the Ranks: Loyalty and Dissent in the Army of the Potomac***, by Dr. Zachery Fry, a lifelong student of the Civil War and proclaimed author.

At the March 26 dinner/presentation, we will hold our annual Silent Auction. This event has proved to be very well-received by our members and helps to support our treasury. If anyone has a particular item which they would like to donate toward the Silent Auction, please contact either myself (843-819-5149), or Mr. Chip Willis, our Vice President, (540-226-5219), and we would be happy to pick that item up ahead of the March Silent Auction.

To address an important issue:
Contacting Ms. Elizabeth Daly to make your dinner reservations

Members of the Round Table are required to call, or email, Elizabeth with your dinner reservations no later than the Monday (by noon time) of the week of the dinner/meeting.

Alternatively, members can RSVP using our website. Elizabeth is required to send the accurate number of attendees to the UMW catering service so all CWRT members and their guests may enjoy our buffet dinner. **If you make a reservation with Elizabeth and fail to attend the dinner/presentation, you are still responsible for the \$35.00 cost of the dinner.**

The Round Table is charged for every meal reserved by our members and their guests.

Elizabeth's cell phone number is: 540-729-0260 and her email address is: elizabethdaly@juno.com.

In closing, I thank all of you for supporting our Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg with your presence at our dinner/presentation meetings. It is an honor and a great pleasure to serve as the President of the Round Table, and I look forward to seeing all of our members and their guests at our next gathering.

Please be well.

Bruce H. "Doc" Norton –President of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg

Charles McDaniel, a Charter Member of our Round Table, delivers a rousing presentation on The Sentry Box during the January meeting. Charlie and his wife, Mary Wynn, have lived in the house for over 60 years and restored the historic house to its initial grandeur. His captivating discussion of the events surrounding the house got the new year off to a great start.



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 by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly@juno.com, or visiting our website at www.cwrt.org. If you must cancel, please do so by noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.

February 26, 2025

A Republic in the Ranks: Loyalty and
Dissent in the Army of the Potomac

Speaker: Dr. Zachery Fry

March 26, 2025
April 23, 2025

Hunter Davidson, CSN
The Battle for Bristoe Station

Speaker: John Coski
Speaker: Kevin Pawlak

For a complete list of presentations see: <http://www.cwrtf.org/Program-Year-2024-2025>

RAPPAHANNOCK VALLEY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

February 10, 2025
March 10, 2025

When Hell Came to Sharpsburg
The Key/Sickles Affair

Speaker: Steve Cowie
Speaker: Jim Hessler

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

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Contemplating the news surrounding the inauguration and President Trump's first week in office, it does not take a degree in American History to know that our great country has been divided more often than not. In my lifetime, I can only remember one occasion when the country was united, and that was immediately after 9-11.

Of course, that did not last long as the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, coupled with President Bush's unpopularity, quickly had the country taking sides and having a go at each other's throats.

Of no surprise to readers of the *Membership Minute*, my thoughts strayed away from contemporary times and onto the Civil War landscape. Divisions among the population were severe enough to go to war with scars lasting for decades. As we approach Black History Month, I came across an excellent piece in the *Emerging Civil War*, "Echoes of Reconstruction," by Patrick Young. In his post of 25 January, Young details the election of 1868 where African-Americans had a substantial role as voters in their first election.

Racial fears of former Confederates saw violent rhetoric and violent action against Blacks rising to "new levels." The Southern Democratic Party was the progenitor of the violence. As the author points out, the population of South Carolina in the census of 1870 was 290,000 White residents and 416,000 Black residents. Despite the many and systemic attempts at intimidation, Grant carried South Carolina by 8,000 votes.

Worth a read here: <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2025/01/25/echoes-of-reconstruction-frustrate-the-white-man-hating-yankee-negro/>

Not all 19th-century writings were racially divisive. Frank Leiby Stanton stands out as a man of letters with a different vision. Stanton (1857-1927) was a prominent American journalist, poet, and lyricist. Best known for his column "Just From Georgia," (published in

the Atlanta Constitution), Stanton was nicknamed "The Poet Laureate of Georgia" for his folksy and sentimental verse. His poems, primarily written in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, often celebrated the simple joys of life, nature, and home, resonating with a wide readership in the American South. Though Stanton's writing may seem sentimental to contemporary readers, it offers a valuable window into the social and cultural landscape of the American South during a period of significant transformation.

One poem, "One Country," caught my attention (reprinted here from "Poems and Songs of the Civil War, edited by Lois Hill 1990, The Fairfax Press):

**After all,
One country brethren! We must rise or fall
With the Supreme Republic. We must be
The makers of her immortality,---
Her freedom fame,
Her glory or her shame:
Liegemen to God and fathers of the free!**

**After all---
Hark! From the heights the clear, strong clarion call
And the command imperious: "Stand forth
Sons of the South and brothers of the North!
Stand forth and be
As one on soil and sea---
Your Country's honor more than empire's worth!"**

**After all,
'Tis freedom wears the loveliest coronel;
Her brow is to the morning; in the sod
She breathes the breath of patriots; every clod
Answers her call
And rises like a wall
Against the foes of liberty and God!**

I think we should all read a little more poetry and a lot less social media material. If we did, perhaps we would not be so divided as a people.

Happy winter season to all! As we continue our fellowship in the program year, I hope to hear from the membership, so please feel free to write to me about anything on your mind at: historyCWRTF@gmail.com.

Rack cards will continue to be available at the entranceway to the dining room. Please feel free to pick some up and pass along to friends, neighbors, colleagues, and others who may be interested in Civil War history. 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.

A hearty welcome to new members Jon Neasham, Frank Simione, Don Bittner and David Condon. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new members.

Curious as to your own thoughts. Hit me up at the link below.

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

David Hamon, Membership Chair

Write to:
historyCWRTF@gmail.com

OFFICERS

President	Bruce "Doc" Norton	recondoc123@gmail.com
Vice President	Russell Willis	chipwillis3rd@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth "Beth" Daly	elizabethdaly@juno.com
Treasurer	George Fenton	gpfenton1974@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Program	Jerre Wilson	maxdog222@gmail.com
Membership	David Hamon	blungrey@gmail.com

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.cwrftf.org

Email: info@cwrftf.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	\$ _____
Sponsoring Member:	\$120.00	
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge	\$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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