

# Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

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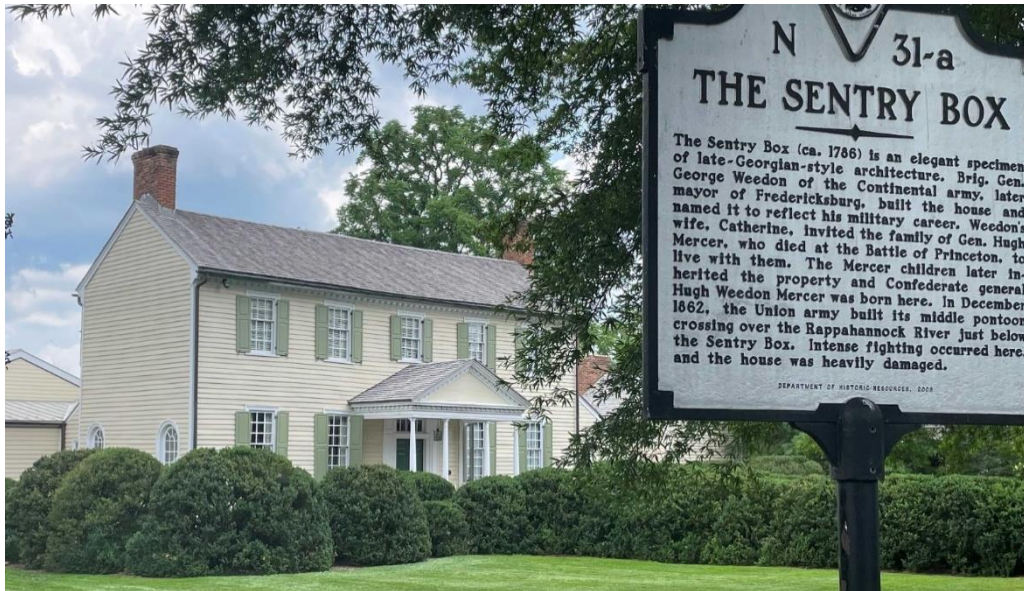
Email: [info@cwrtf.org](mailto:info@cwrtf.org)  
Website: [www.cwrtf.org](http://www.cwrtf.org)

*Next Meeting: 1/22/2025  
UMW Jepson Alumni Ctr  
1119 Hanover Street*

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

## HARDTACK

### JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER



**SPEAKER: CHARLES G. MCDANIEL**  
**PROGRAM: THE SENTRY BOX -- A WITNESS TO HISTORY**  
**JANUARY 22, 2025**

Perched above the Rappahannock River, the Sentry Box has witnessed history spanning several of America's most tumultuous eras. Built in 1786 by Brigadier General George Weedon of the Continental Army, the view is striking. Directly across the river is Ferry Farm, childhood home of George Washington. A Confederate general was born at The Sentry Box and a famous World War II general traced his family origins to the house. The Sentry Box was involved in the Civil War from the very beginning until the end. Located above the City Dock and near the location of the middle pontoon crossing, the home was involved in every aspect of the Civil War. During McDowell's occupation, a bridge was built below The Sentry Box and Lincoln crossed there. During the Fredericksburg Campaign, the house saw intense infantry combat with the Confederates controlling the crossing and the home suffered extensive damage from artillery fire. The owner of The Sentry Box wrote first person accounts of what happened there, and the area saw the first urban warfare with Union soldiers sacking houses in the area of The Sentry Box. During 1864 a photographer was in the area and captured many original images. Charlie McDaniel will describe many events witnessed by The Sentry Box.

### **CHARLES G. McDANIEL**

Charles and Mary Wynn McDaniel were married on December 29, 1962, and have lived in The Sentry Box House since that time. It needed a considerable amount of work, but the couple made the house a home, raised three children, and spent a lifetime restoring The Sentry Box.



Charles McDaniel is the Chairman of Hilldrup Moving and a respected member of the Fredericksburg community. He has served on various boards and in many leadership positions in the moving and trucking industry

He routinely gives back to the Fredericksburg community, serving on a variety of boards and executive committees for various organizations. A graduate of the School of Business Administration at the University of Richmond, Charles has received many honors for his achievements at the national, state, and community level. He collects Civil War carbines and enjoys hunting, fishing and music. He is the remaining original charter member of the Civil War Round Table Fredericksburg, Inc.

#### **Next Two Presentations of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.**

**February 26, 2025**

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

Speaker: Dr. Zachery Fry

**March 26, 2025**

**Hunter Davidson, CSN**

Speaker: John Coski

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

**Next Two Presentations of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table**

**January 13, 2025**                      **Newport Barracks and the 1864 New Bern Campaign**

Speaker: Eric Lindblade

**February 10, 2025**                      **When Hell Came to Sharpsburg**

Speaker: Steve Cowie

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

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**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

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**From the Desk of the President**

January – 2025

Good afternoon to all of our members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, and **Happy New Year!**

The January dinner/presentation, which will be held on Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of this month, at the Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street, will be a much-anticipated event, as Mr. Charles G. McDaniel, an original “plank owner” of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, will present a program titled: Witness to History – The Sentry Box. Charlie and his wife, Mary Wynn McDaniel, have lived in The Sentry Box house, here in Fredericksburg, since 1962, and we look forward to his presentation.

At our November 2024 meeting, we had approximately 90 members and guests present. As we continue to grow the Round Table, we are always looking for new members. I ask each of our members to speak to family and friends and please invite them to come to the January dinner/presentation. If twenty members brought a guest, our membership would exceed the 135 member mark, making this our largest number of Round Table members....ever.

**Please make your dinner reservations early by contacting Ms. Elizabeth Daly at 540-729-0260, not later than Monday, 20 January, by 12:00, so Beth can provide accurate numbers to the MWU catering service.**

As I write this short letter, we have just witnessed the first snow storm of any consequence in the last two years. I urge all of you to please keep abreast of the weather and drive carefully. Our membership is our most valuable asset, and not made up of “youngsters.” When we leave our meetings at the Jepson Center, particularly in these winter months, the roads home can be treacherous. Plan accordingly.

I look forward to seeing you, and your guests, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January.

Sincerely and with very best regards,

Bruce H. “Doc” Norton – President, Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg  
[Recondoc123@gmail.com](mailto:Recondoc123@gmail.com)

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### **MEMBERSHIP MINUTE**

Happy New Year to all! As we pick up the program year I always enjoy hearing from members so please feel free to write to me at: [historyCWRTF@gmail.com](mailto:historyCWRTF@gmail.com) with anything on your mind.

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: Ronald Tebbutt and Craig Clemmensen. Please take the time to introduce yourself to our new members.

When I worked at the World War One Centennial Commission, I covered the Veterans and Military Service Organizations portfolio. I became interested on the subject of why Millennials were not “joiners.” It turns out one of the main reasons (according to them) was they disliked paying membership fees/dues. A small unscientific sample survey I conducted of veterans (Iraq/Afghanistan) was they could not visualize how paying dues provided a benefit to them.

In 2020, before Covid shut down our lives, I was working on a “decision brief” for the board on a two-tiered membership scheme that would bring in Millennials (essentially as “Associated Members” dues free), with the idea in mind to use our programs as a lure for

eventual full membership (and hence, dues-paying full members). I never got to present the brief.

Since then, I must admit my views have changed, thanks in part to a realization that meeting at the Jepsen Center is central to the task and purpose of what we do and who we are. Without any analysis on my part, it turned out that the venue transcends generations! Everyone loves both the venue and the food! And due to the superb work of the Program Committee, we have excellent speakers/topics to boot!

Additionally, understanding that part of the annual dues allows the CWRTF to remain at Jepsen is a clear explanation as ever was needed. Throw in the NPS Intern Stipend and the CSA Cemetery stone replacement, and a good case is made better.

So, when challenged regarding the annual dues by prospective members of generations other than “boomers,” tell them this: “your modest annual contribution enables the CWRTF to be a jewel of Fredericksburg’s civic life, and a first-class organization.”

I’ll close this month’s column with a bit of interesting Union propaganda from 1863.

Given all the back and forth between political parties and various bloggers today, it is reassuring that fake news is not a new phenomenon. On January 5, 1863, a clever Union propagandist, using bits and pieces of public, recorded utterances from various Confederate officials, published the following (attributed to Jefferson Davis and allegedly published in the *Richmond Enquirer*) broadsheet: ‘*An address to the people of the free states by the President of the Southern confederacy.*’ While the document describes itself as being printed by the *Richmond Enquirer*, it was probably printed somewhere north of the Mason-Dixon Line. The address is supposed to be Davis’ strongly-worded response to Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, but there is no evidence that Davis had anything to do with its writing or publication.

**Reprinted here from “This Week in the Civil War,” by Donald Cartmell.  
AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE FREE STATES BY THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTHERN CONFEDERACY.**

Richmond, January 5, 1863

Citizens of the non-slave-holding States of America, swayed by peaceable motives, I have used all my influence, often thereby endangering my position as the President of the Southern Confederacy, to have the unhappy conflict now existing between my people and yourselves, governed by those well established international rules, which heretofore have softened the asperities which necessarily are the concomitants of a state of belligerency, but all my efforts in the premises have heretofore been unavailing. Now, therefore, I am compelled *e necessitati rei* to employ a measure, which most willingly I would have omitted to do, regarding, as I always must, State Rights, as the very organism of politically associated society.

For nearly two years my people have been defending their inherent rights—their political, social and religious rights against the speculators of New England and their allies in the States heretofore regarded as conservative. The people of the Southern Confederacy have—making sacrifices such as the modern world has never witnessed—patiently, but determinedly, stood between their home interests and the well paid, well fed and well clad mercenaries of the Abolitionists, and I need not say that they have nobly vindicated the good name of American citizens.

Heretofore, the warfare has been conducted by white men—peers, scions of the same stock; but the programme has been changed, and your rulers despairing of a triumph by the employment of white men, have degraded you and themselves, by inviting the co-operation of the black race. Thus, while they deprecate the intervention of white men—the French and the English—in behalf of the Southern Confederacy, they, these Abolitionists, do not hesitate to invoke the intervention of the African race in favor of the North. The time has, therefore, come when a becoming respect for the good opinion of the civilized world impels me to set forth the following facts:

First. Abraham Lincoln, the President of the Non-Slaveholding States, has issued his proclamation, declaring the slaves within the limits of the Southern Confederacy to be free.

Second. Abraham Lincoln has declared that the slaves so emancipated may be used in the Army and Navy, now under his control, by which he means to employ, against the Free People of the South, insurrectionary measures, the inevitable tendency of which will be to inaugurate a Servile War, and thereby prove destructive, in a great measure, to slave property. Now, therefore, as a compensatory measure, I do hereby issue the following Address to the People of the Non-Slaveholding States:

On and after February 22, 1863, all free negroes within the limits of the Southern Confederacy shall be placed on the slave status, and be deemed to be chattels, they and their issue forever. All negroes who shall be taken in any of the States in which slavery does not now exist, in the progress of our arms, shall be adjudged, immediately after such capture, to occupy the slave status, and in all States which shall be vanquished by our arms, all free negroes shall, ipso facto, be reduced to the condition of helotism, so that the respective normal conditions of the white and black races may be ultimately placed on a permanent basis, so as to prevent the public peace from being thereafter endangered.

Therefore, while I would not ignore the conservative policy of the Slave States, namely, that a Federal Government cannot, without violating the fundamental principles of a Constitution, interfere with the internal policy of several States; since, however, Abraham Lincoln has seen fit to ignore the Constitution he has solemnly sworn to support, it

ought not to be considered polemically or politically improper in me to vindicate the position which has been at an early day of this Southern republic, assumed by the Confederacy, namely, that slavery is the corner-stone of a Western Republic. It is not necessary for me to elaborate this proposition. I may merely refer, in passing, to the prominent fact, that the South is emphatically a producing section of North America; this is equally true of the West and Northwest, the people of which have been mainly dependent on the South for the consumption of their products. The other States, in which slavery does not exist, have occupied a middle position, as to the South, West and Northwest. The States of New England, from which all complicated difficulties have arisen, owe their greatness and power to the free suffrages of all other sections of North America; and yet, as is now evident, they have, from the adoption of the Federal Constitution, waged a persistent warfare against the interests of all the other States of the old Union. The great centre of their opposition has been Slavery, while the annual statistics of their respective State Governments abundantly prove that they entertain within all their boundaries fewer negroes than any single State which does not tolerate slavery.

In view of these facts, and conscientiously believing that the proper condition of the negro is slavery, or a complete subjection to the white man, and entertaining the belief that the day is not distant when the old Union will be restored with slavery nationally declared to be the proper condition of all of African descent, and in view of the future harmony and progress of all the States of America, I have been induced to issue this address, so that there may be no misunderstanding in the future.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Richmond Enquirer Print.

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](mailto:historyCWRTF@gmail.com)**



**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

**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 November meeting by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing [elizabethdaly@juno.com](mailto:elizabethdaly@juno.com) or responding to this newsletter by email no later than noon on Monday, January 20, 2025. 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](http://www.facebook.com/CivilWarRoundTableofFredericksburg)

I look forward to seeing you all at the January 22 meeting.

Bruce "Doc" Norton  
President