



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



**MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER**

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

Our Round Table will gather once again on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:45pm, when Ashley Whitehead Luskey will present **The Richmond Bread Riots**. This will be another great presentation to our Round Table.

Our Round Table made history on the evening of February 25<sup>th</sup>, when we hosted 102 members and their guests at the Jepson Center for Dr. Doug Douds' presentation on the leadership of Generals Meade and Lee at Gettysburg. It was a great presentation, enjoyed by all of us.

It is my pleasure to announce that our paid membership is now at **126 members** of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg. My sincere thanks to our members for introducing our Round Table to perspective members who have now decided to join our ranks, as we continue to grow.

As always, we ask that you please contact Ms. Elizabeth Daly with your dinner reservations **prior to noon** on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March so that Elizabeth has an accurate count for the UMW catering service. Elizabeth's email is: [elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com).

I urge you all to please be safe, stay warm, and invite a guest to join with you at our March 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

## MARCH 25, 2026 MEETING THE RICHMOND BREAD RIOTS



By 1863, the combination of the Northern blockade of Southern ports, the diversion of Southern food supplies from the home front to the war front and the escalating inflation of its currency began to negatively affect the Confederacy's civilian population. Additional class divisions and tensions within the overcrowded Confederate capital itself boiled to the surface on April 2, 1863, when a group of women descended upon the Confederate capital in Richmond demanding relief. Rebuffed by the Governor, the mob took their complaints to the streets and sparked a spontaneous protest by a crowd of several hundred. Shouting "Bread, Bread, Bread!" the mob vented its frustrations by smashing store windows and looting their contents. The bread riot was eventually quelled when Jefferson Davis climbed atop a wagon and threatened to have Confederate troops—which had been called out to support the public guard—open fire on the crowd. He pulled out his watch and gave the rioters five minutes to disperse and return home. There were no further riots in Richmond during the Civil War, and the government made increased efforts to distribute food to the poor. City leaders went to great lengths to keep the fact of the riot out of the news, fearing the impact the story would have on troop morale. However, news leaked out via Union prisoners of war in Richmond, and the riot was front-page news in *The New York Times* on April 8. Dr. Ashley Whitehead Luskey will discuss the riot and the impact on the civilian population of Richmond.

### **SPEAKER: DR. ASHLEY WHITEHEAD LUSKEY**

Dr. Ashley Whitehead Luskey is the Assistant Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College, where she teaches classes in Civil War history, material culture, and public history; works with Gettysburg College students on a variety of original research-based Civil War and public history projects; coordinates the annual CWI



summer conference, and gives tours of the battlefield to visitors. She holds a PhD in nineteenth-century American history, with academic interests in the Civil War and Reconstruction, Southern history, cultural history, public history, and the intersection of history & memory. Prior to her arrival at CWI, Dr. Luskey worked for ten years with the National Park Service, including eight years as a park ranger and historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park. She has delivered numerous interpretive tours, lectures, and scholarly papers at educational institutions and public venues across the country and has written articles on a variety of Civil War and public history-related topics for various magazines, journals, and blogs. Her most recent piece, a co-edited article entitled “From Women’s History to Gender History: Revamping Interpretation at Richmond National Battlefield Park,” was published in the June 2016 issue of *Civil War History*. Her current long-form scholarly project is a manuscript entitled, *The Last Confederate Christmas: Leading Ladies, Social Politics, and Power in the Confederate Capital*.

### **SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP**

Special thanks to Doc Norton for his sponsorship of this month’s program. Please consider sponsoring a program. It’s a great way to support our Round Table.

### **FEBRUARY MEETING REVIEW**

Attendees of the February 25 meeting were entertained and enlightened as Dr. Doug Douds compared the war fighting machines of Lee and Meade at Gettysburg. Drawing from the research of his doctoral dissertation, Dr. Douds provided an in-depth analysis of the staff, leadership, and performance of each side. He presented a convincing argument on the importance of good staff work and that Meade had a superior staff. Besides having excellent staff officers like Henry Hunt, Chief of Artillery, and Montgomery Meigs, Quartermaster, Meade kept his staff close by. Their proximity allowed them to forecast problems, solve problems, and free Meade to concentrate on fighting his army. Lee, on the other hand, was not well served by his staff. While generally not as competent as their Union counterparts, Confederate staff officers were not located near Lee. Issues such as intelligence, ammunition supply, and others would impact on Lee’s decisions. Dr. Douds’ comprehensive analysis will help us better understand the decisions and actions at Gettysburg.



### **FORTHCOMING PRESENTATIONS**

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

April 22, 2026

Dennis Frye - *John Brown: Igniting the Keg*

May 27, 2026

Hampton Newsome – *The Appomattox Campaign*

Jun 17, 2026

Christopher Grasso – *Teacher, Preacher, Soldier, Spy: John Kelso (Zoom)*

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**

Mar 9, 2026	Madeline Thompson – <i>Clara Barton</i>
Apr 13, 2026	Brad Gottfried – <i>Race to the Potomac: Lee &amp; Meade at Gettysburg</i>
May 11, 2026	Michael Hardy – <i>Feeding Lee's Army of Northern Virginia</i>

### **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:

Mar 13, 2026	Neil Chatelain – <i>Treasure &amp; Empire in the Civil War</i>
Mar 20, 2026	Joseph Boslet – <i>Little Round Top</i>
Apr 3, 2026	Wesley Moody – <i>Hero of Ft Sumter: Robert Anderson</i>
Apr 10, 2026	Tonya Graham McQuade - <i>A State Divided: Civil War Letters of James Conway Hale &amp; Benjamin Petree</i>
Apr 24, 2026	Fr. Robert Miller – <i>Religion is What Made Soldiers Brave</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.cwrtof.org/view-calendar>.

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### **PLEASE PURCHASE TICKETS TO OUR NEW FUNDRAISING RAFFLE:**

**2 orchestra center premium tickets  
Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra  
May 23, 7:30 p.m. at James Monroe High School Auditorium**

**A special patriotic concert celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary.  
Ticket sales: One ticket for \$5.00; Three tickets for \$10.00.**

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

Thank you very much,  
CWRT of Fredericksburg  
Board of Directors

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### **MEMBERSHIP MINUTE MARCH 2026**

**First of two monthly trivia questions: What was “The Cracker Line?”  
(The answer posted in next week’s newsletter)**

Congratulations to all the members who brought guests to February’s meeting! We had a record-breaking 25 guests attend! The crowd numbered 102, as most of us were hoping to shake off the winter blues and get out of the house for an evening of Civil War history, fellowship, and good food!

In drafting this column and contemplating, as I usually do, our organization’s future, I caught an item in my American Legion Post newsletter stating that the average age of its membership is 70! Yikes! Continuing, by pointing out the obvious conclusion that this particular Post is not long for this world if the demographics continue trending in that direction, the writer exhorted the membership to “find new members,” and closed by writing a sentence that read: “...the leadership is working on a plan.”

Back in September, a small group on the board got together to draft a set of Administrative instructions, and like any good organization, started with a mission and a vision statement. The actual words are not important, but the overarching goal of the effort was to think long and hard on where we wanted the CWRTF to be three, five and seven years from 2025. In

short, we envisioned a vibrant, healthy RT, among the very best in the country, creating progress we could measure.

One such effort is to deliberately recruit younger members. To sustain our RT, we must recruit a new generation of leadership.

To facilitate this effort, a small committee is working on a website redesign -- one that will contain much more interesting content. Moreover, the new platform will provide for electronic payments, donations, and links to social media sites. A dynamic calendar will display regional activities and show key local and national Civil War History related events. More to come on the new website! Watch these spaces!

Improvement is as constant a phenomenon as change. Improvement matters as much to volunteer member organizations as it does to businesses and civic organizations.

Circumstances, events, people, and culture are always in a state of flux: constantly changing in ways visible and not so visible. What worked yesterday may not work tomorrow.

Activities, programs, and practices of our round table that we've grown comfortable with and once brought success disappear in time. To succeed and prosper, we must be willing to take on new and fresh challenges.

Connected to our local efforts is the Civil War Round Table Congress. The mission of the Congress is to help sustain the nation's Civil War Round Tables. In the past 10 years, 100 CWRTs have ceased to exist. What happens in our communities when we cease a concerted effort to learn more about the American Civil War? One doesn't need to live near Civil War battlefields to think upon and study the full spectrum of Civil War & 19<sup>th</sup> Century history with like-minded fellow citizens. The Congress deserves our active support!

Who better to deliver this message but Gen. Winfield Scott. Old "Fuss and Feathers" himself! The link below will take you to a short YouTube public service message created by the Congress:

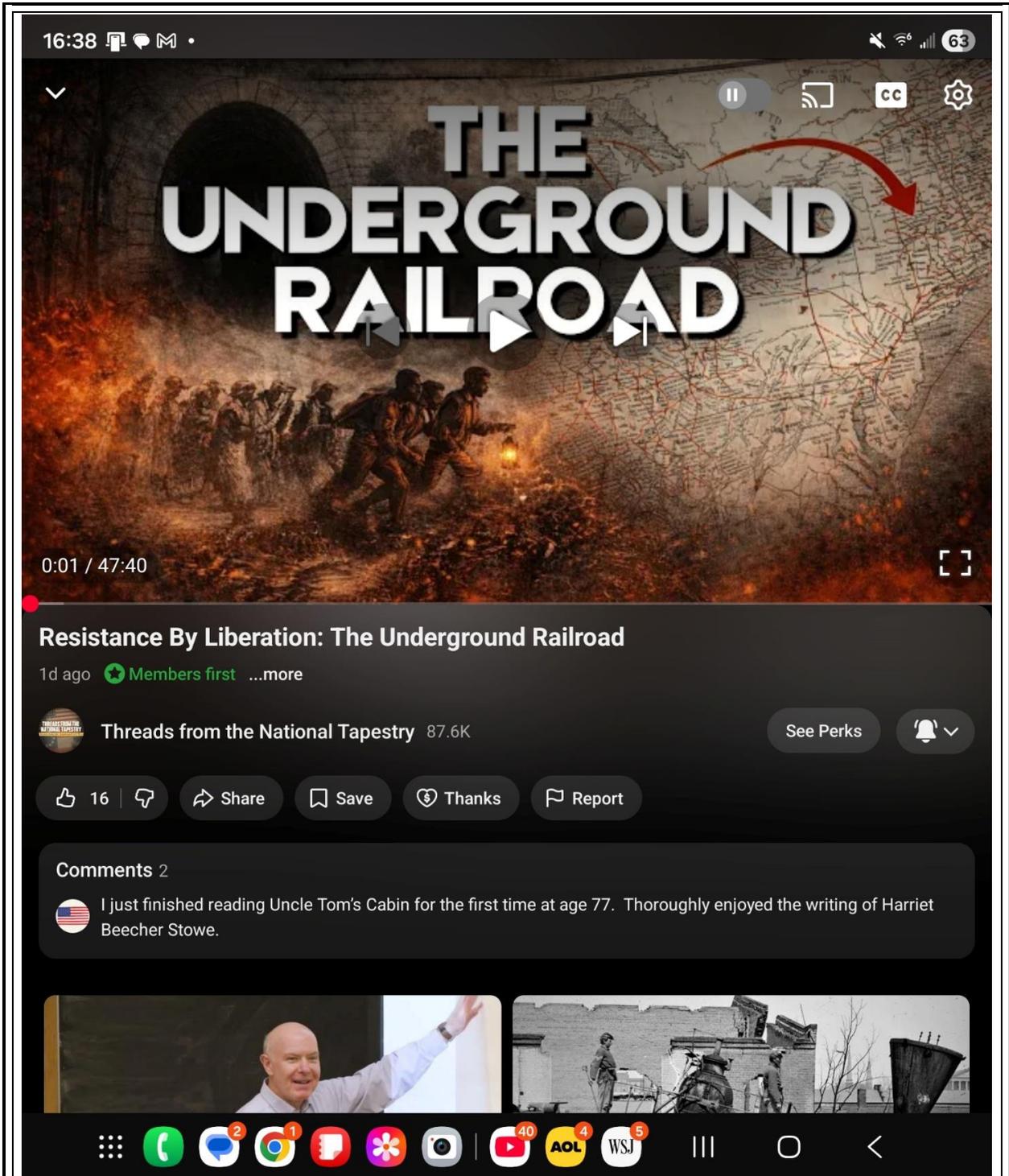
[https://youtu.be/fyBx8\\_m676Q?si=BVAZjCg9CcSrKNDj](https://youtu.be/fyBx8_m676Q?si=BVAZjCg9CcSrKNDj)



I've been an avid follower of an online podcast called "Threads from the National Tapestry." Recently I stumbled across a rich and extremely interesting episode on the history of the Underground Railroad. It is a real shame that much of what we know about the Underground Railroad comes to us from folklore. As far as I know, there has been only one scholarly study of the Underground Railroad and its immense contribution to the dangerous journeys of enslaved people from bondage to freedom.

I highly recommend subscribing and working your way through all their videos. The content is both entertaining and educational. The link below will get you started. Click "join" to become a member.

<https://youtu.be/jVt4lROSXMc?si=cqcJyf5HZO40KTHO>



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

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

**David W Hamon**

**CORRECTION:** In last month's MEMBERSHIP MINUTE on the subject of erecting a statue honoring the Irish Brigade, I failed to mention the significant contributions and efforts by the Irish Cultural Society of Virginia. SEE THE INFO SHEET IN THIS MONTH'S HARDTACK

**Second Trivia Question: What was Harriet Tubman's nickname? (answer will be posted in next month's newsletter).**

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## **IRISH CULTURE SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA**

<https://irishcultureva.org>

We are an IRS-designated 501c.(3) nonprofit entity. Our directors and officers are volunteers. We do not own or rent a permanent facility and we pay no salaries. We promote Irish culture and traditions and honor Irish and Irish American historic figures with highly visible and tactile memorials.



This project will honor the Irish Brigade with a life-size bronze statue of a Brigade soldier, identified by the boxwood sprig attached to the kepi. The Battle of Fredericksburg at Marye's Heights may be the Irish Brigade's most historic action during its storied four years in the Army of the Potomac. The statue will be located near the Marye's Heights battlefield.

Prior to the battle, the Irish Brigade Commander, BG Thomas Meagher, told his soldiers "*The Americans are watching us today.*" Most historians agree the Irish Brigade's valor during the Civil War, especially at the Battle of Fredericksburg, ensured the acceptance of Irish immigrants into mainstream America. The Brigade's actions proved the Irish, fighting side-by-side with native born U.S. soldiers, were true and loyal Americans. This statue will recall how the Brigade's valor, sacrifice and heroism overcame the challenges Irish immigrants faced after escaping Ireland's Great Hunger (*An Gorta Mor*) during the 1840s and 50s.

Estimates for this memorial range from \$120,000 to \$130,000. We'll be soliciting donations. Donations of cash, real estate or IRA transfers are tax deductible. With your continuing help, we can ensure that the spirit of Ireland thrives—not just as a memory, but as a vibrant presence in our communities. The Society is a 501c.(3) nonprofit so donations are fully tax-deductible. Our EIN is 843551738.



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### **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 March 25 meeting by noon March 23 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.

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**-- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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