

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

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*Next Meeting: 5/22/2024
UMW Jepson Alumni Ctr
1119 Hanover Street*

*Social: 5:45pm
Dinner: 6:15pm
Program: 7:30 pm*

HARDTACK

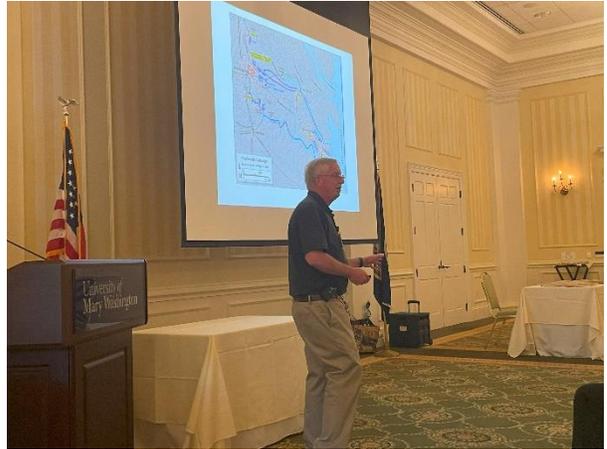
MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER



General Joseph Shelby (left) and John Newman Edwards (right)

**SPEAKER: DR. MATTHEW HULBERT
PROGRAM: ORACLE OF LOST CAUSES: JOHN NEWMAN EDWARDS AND
HIS NEVER-ENDING CIVIL WAR
MAY 22, 2024**

Attendees at the April meeting were treated to an extremely interesting and informative session as Doug Crenshaw artfully described the Seven Days Battle of 1862. It was a critical period for the Confederacy as General Joe Johnston was wounded and a relatively unknown, Robert E. Lee, assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Doug's complete knowledge of the area and the events made a confusing set of events understandable. After a thorough discussion of the battles, he summarized the ultimate impact on the Union and the Confederacy.



May 22, 2024 Presentation -- Oracle of Lost Causes: John Newman Edwards and His Never Ending Civil War

John N. Edwards was born in Warren County, Virginia on January 4, 1839, and moved to Missouri around 1855 where he became a hunting and fishing companion of a man named Joseph Shelby. In 1862, when Confederate General Shelby, raised a cavalry regiment near Waverly, Missouri, Edwards joined it. Florid in speech and flamboyant in battle, Edwards had more horses shot out from under him than any other man in Shelby's command. Edwards rubbed shoulders with generals during the Civil War and then with Emperor Maximilian and Empress Charlotte in Mexico following Confederate defeat. After Maximilian's execution, Edwards returned to the newly re-United States and waged a one-man war against Radical Reconstruction. He settled in Missouri and resumed newspaper work in 1867. He helped found the Kansas City Times in 1868 and served as its editor. A hard-driving (and hard drinking) newspaper editor, author, and duelist, Edwards created the myth and legend of the James-Younger Gang, established the historical foundations of the Civil War in the Missouri-Kansas borderlands, and became the architect of Missouri's own "irregular Lost Cause." In spite of this seemingly made-for-Hollywood story, John Newman Edwards isn't a household name in 2024. This talk will explain why -- as well as how his saga is a grand tapestry of nineteenth-century politics and culture that forces us to reconsider much of what we think we know about the American Civil War.





Matthew Christopher Hulbert is an Elliott Associate Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College. In addition to the Civil War and Reconstruction, he teaches courses on the American West, guerrilla violence, film, and the history of hunting and fishing in America. He is the author or editor of five books, most recently *Oracle of Lost Causes: John Newman Edwards and His Never-Ending Civil War*, released by Bison Books in Fall 2023.

Please check the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg website calendar to see a listing of free online seminars, conferences, meetings, workshops, and other items of interest. Additionally, the “Resource” tab contains a new listing of useful internet reference websites.

Upcoming Presentations

Upcoming presentations through May 2025 are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| May 22, 2024 | Oracle of Lost Causes: John Newman Edwards and His Never Ending Civil War
<i>Speaker: Matthew Hulbert</i> |
| June 12, 2024 | The Last Siege – 1865 Mobile Campaign
<i>Speaker: Paul Brueske</i> |
| September 25, 2024 | Irvin McDowell
<i>Speaker: Gene Schmiel</i> |
| October 23, 2024 | Confederate Guerillas and Union Reprisals
<i>Speaker: Clay Mountcastle</i> |
| November 20, 2024 | Ambrose Burnside’s Military Career
<i>Speaker: Frank O’Reilly</i> |
| January 22, 2025 | The Sentry Box House
<i>Speaker: Charlie McDaniel</i> |
| February 26, 2025 | A Republic in the Ranks: Loyalty and Dissent in the Army of the Republic
<i>Speaker: Zachery Fry</i> |
| May 28, 2025 | The Grand Old Man of the Army: General Winfield Scott’s Unionism and the Secession Crisis
<i>Speaker: Barton Myers</i> |

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK
MAY 2024

Good morning, Everyone,

My apologies for not being present at the April meeting of our Round Table, as recent surgery prevented my attendance. My sincere thanks to Dr. Jerre Wilson for taking the helm as the acting president for that evening's program.

Additionally, my thanks to all of you who continue to support the Round Table with your presence at our monthly dinner/presentations. Thank you.

My understanding is that we had 75+ people in attendance at the April meeting. This is 75% of our membership and we continue to try and increase that number. To date, we have 111 active members.

We now have the name of our NPS intern, whom we help to support financially each year. Below is Ms. Olivia Staubitz' biography; we will see her at our June meeting.

Please welcome Olivia:

"My name is Olivia Staubitz and I am an incoming summer intern at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. Having just graduated, my bachelor's degree is a joint degree with the College of William & Mary and the University of St Andrews (Scotland), my major being history and a minor in anthropology. I have also completed the National Institute of American History & Democracy (NIAHD) program at William & Mary, earning a certificate in Material Culture and Public History, as well as experiencing interning in costume at the Pasteur & Galt Apothecary Shop and excavating through the Colonial Williamsburg summer field school. My passion is history (specifically medical history) and archaeology, and I hope to attend graduate school starting the Fall of 2025, either in the states or UK depending on the program. My home state is Colorado so it has taken a little while to get used to the humidity and rain, but I have loved being in Virginia, my favorite pastime being looking at all of the fascinating flora and fauna we don't have out in CO. I am ecstatic to be an intern this coming summer and hope to make the most of this wonderful opportunity. Thank you again, and I am excited to be working with y'all in these coming months."

Olivia Staubitz

I look forward to seeing everyone at the May meeting and I thank you for your continued support of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

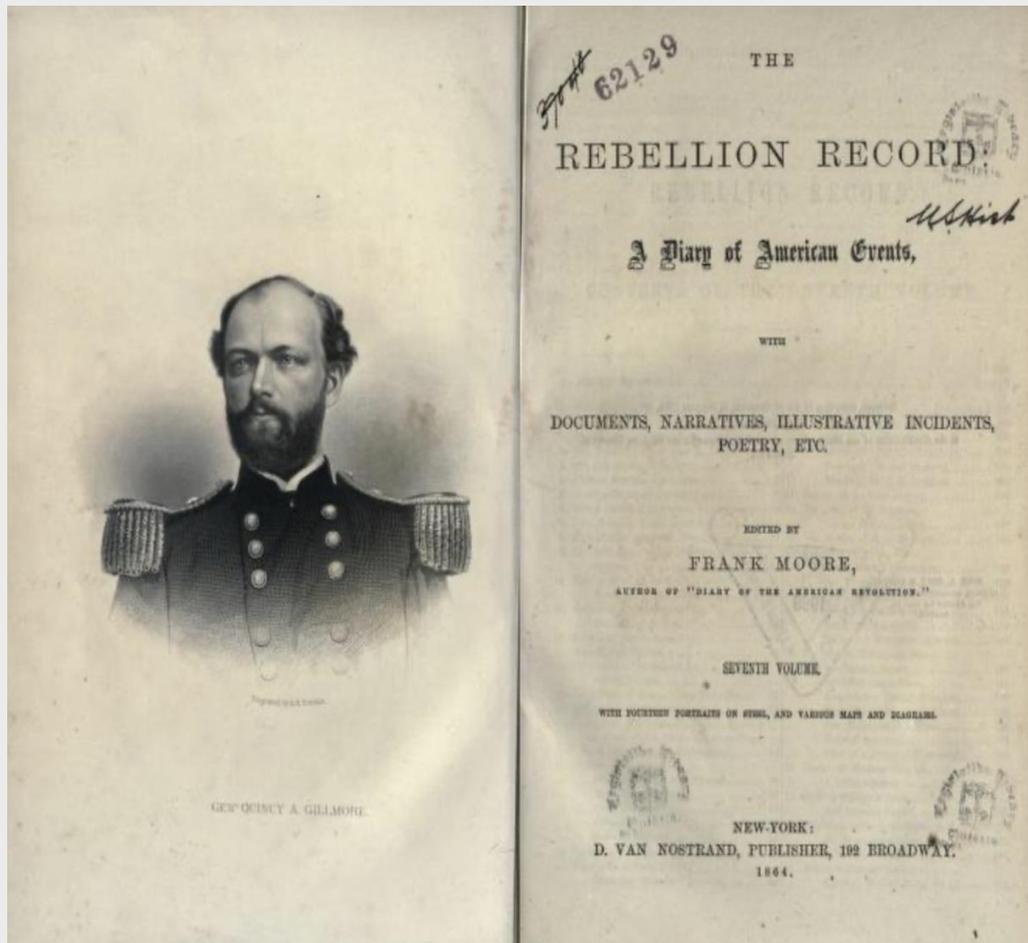
Sincerely,
Bruce H. "Doc" Norton
President - Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg



BLUE AND GRAY DISPATCH

North Carolina Forms a Rump Union Government

Len Riedel, April 22, 2024, blueandgrayeducation.org



The title page of Frank Moore's *The Rebellion Record*, which includes "Governor Taylor's" proclamation to his citizens | [Internet Archive](#)

With the secession of North Carolina, the state's governance was no longer associated with the United States of America. When Federal forces moved onto the Outer Banks in August 1861, locals formed a rump state government.

A Methodist minister, Marble Nash Taylor, was the only clergy on Hatteras Island when the Federals arrived—the 30-something minister was reported to have given aid and assistance to the Federal military. Soon thereafter, by local agreement with other sympathetic leaders on the island, a group organized, then sought aid for the islanders and fostered a climate favorable to the Union presence. In fact, by November, they had formed a constitutional convention that restored North Carolina to the Union, elected a provisional congressman, and installed Taylor as their governor.

The United States Congress was unimpressed with the Hatteras residents' actions, and the Congressman elect was hooted off the floor. However, "Governor Taylor" acted as the

chief executive and sent a proclamation to his "citizens" from the island on January 22, 1862. It was published in Frank Moore's *The Rebellion Record*—a wartime compendium of activities in the United States during the Civil War. Here it is, in part:

"To the People of North Carolina: The invincible arms of the republic at length advance to the suppression of the great revolt against the popular rights and national authority which has essayed to rob you of your American Citizenship, and to enslave you to the will of relentless domestic tyrants; the holy banner of the Union consecrated anew through its baptism of tears and blood is borne by loyal hands, the symbol and pledge of your final and complete enfranchisement. Your silent and tearful prayers to God for rescue from the despotism that enthalls you are heard and the hour of your deliverance approaches. The brave men [referring to Union General Burnside's occupying force] who come among you are not foes but friends, and their mission is one of mercy and relief. The war they wage is not upon North Carolina and her people, but upon the rebels and traitors who have invaded your territory and who hold you in constrained and protesting submission to their arbitrary power. ..."

"And in order that the State may forthwith resume her participation in the Councils of the Union, I do furthermore direct that ... the polls be opened for the election of representatives in the Congress of the United States to fill existing vacancies."

Late in March 1862, Lincoln named a military governor for North Carolina. Taylor returned to the pulpit, and after the war was given a political assignment as director of the Poor House in Fayetteville, where he worked for 15 years before migrating to the western part of the state. There, he peddled fruit trees and lived in a shack where he died in 1894 known locally as "Governor."

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Our Civil War Roundtable membership increased to 111! Thanks to all of you for your efforts in adding to our membership rolls and bringing authentic and interesting Civil War historical knowledge to our area. Of note here is the fact that during COVID, after switching to online presentations, we seldom had viewers in the 30–40-person range and after going back to in-person meetings, our paid membership stood at a dismal 60. Currently, our monthly meeting participation average in the seventies. We would like to add nine new members before the summer break.

To those who picked up a few of the new rack cards to distribute, thank you!
Feedback welcome.

For this post, I was reminded of how our Civil War history is woven into so many seemingly unrelated things such as art and sculpture. Last week while in Houston I visited the

Museum of Fine Arts Houston (MFAH) ([link here](#)) and took in an exhibition by Kehinde Wiley entitled *An Archaeology of Silence*. A complex body of work by a globally celebrated contemporary artist, Wiley's work here used the visual language of heroes, martyrs, and saints portrayed in Western historical art to confront violence and injustice.

Rounding exhibition in the penultimate display room I was confronted with a gigantic bronze horse with the lifeless body of a fallen figure—a young black man laid across its back. To my naked eye the sculpture of the horse looked familiar. Sure enough, I was astonished to read the exhibit signage telling us this piece of art was copied from the Richmond, Virginia monument of Confederate General James Ewell Brown Stuart created in 1907 by Frederick Moynihan. This piece, like the exhibition, was titled "*An Archaeology of Silence*," in reference to a phrase by the French Philosopher Michael Foucault who used it to describe the action of making visible a socially repressed phenomenon. The young black man in the sculpture represented the enslaved.

As we all know well (and will not go into in this column), that statue no longer stands in Richmond having been placed in storage. But I was struck how profound the emotion and effect this particular statue had on Wiley's artistic vision who otherwise had no connection with the American Civil War.

This set me to thinking about the greater role Civil War History plays in society. Many of us with military backgrounds or those with a love of military and/or American History focus perhaps on battles and important military figures of the war, but we haven't spent nearly enough time on how others with different interests may find curiosities and connections to Civil War History apart from military affairs. More to the point, all of us wish that the education system would teach more American History and a good argument is to be made that the Civil War era gets short shrift. How do we connect younger generations to a love of history? How do we inspire children to take an interest in the many complexities and richness of this history? How do we reach out and help teachers in the area teach and explain the importance of legacy that is both the nation's and our local history?

These ponderings caused me to further reflect on our own Civil War Roundtable. Our education, purpose and mission are enshrined in our by-laws, and it is a tribute to the Program Committee finding and bringing to Fredericksburg a wide variety of speakers who address many of these historical themes. Taken together, we uniquely serve the community.

Whether one's interest is in art, poetry (as written about last month) folk music, 19th Century politics, photography, social history, technology, fashion (yes indeed, there is even a club for that!) and more, much delight can be had from studying the American Civil War.

When discussing the topic of the CWRTF with others I always take pains to add: "there is something in our local Fredericksburg area history of interest to everyone, even if one doesn't like history! Come see for yourself! As an added bonus we have many, many interesting members to visit with, a high class and superb venue, and good food! What's not to like?"

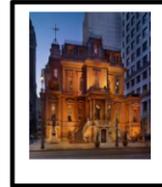
So, in closing, as all of us endeavor to spread the word about our Roundtable, recruit new members, pursue interesting historical interests, let us never forget the profound role we play in keeping our community's legacy vibrant and not forgotten.

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

David Hamon, Membership Chair
HistoryCWRTF@gmail.com



**GENERAL MEADE SOCIETY /
LEGION POST 405
SPRING BUS TRIP
SATURDAY, MAY 11TH, 2024,
8:30 AM- 5 PM**



A MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM TOUR OF PHILADELPHIA



A photograph of a museum exhibit. The exhibit is titled "THE IMPENDING CRISIS" and features several informational panels. One panel is titled "POLITICAL VISION" and another "ACTION & REACTION". The exhibit is displayed in a modern museum setting with glass display cases and informational panels.

**THE
IMPENDING
CRISIS**
NEW EXHIBITION
OPENING APRIL 27, 2024

 THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ACWM Tredegar | 480 Tredegar St, Richmond, VA

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR MUSEUM EVENTS

https://acwm.org/event/grand-old-man-of-the-army-myers/?utm_source=The+American+Civil+War+Museum&utm_campaign=d53b5e4ce7-2e076fc11e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=d53b5e4ce7&mc_eid=896d3e103a

https://acwm.org/event/the-unvanquished/?utm_source=The+American+Civil+War+Museum&utm_campaign=d53b5e4ce7-2e076fc11e-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=d53b5e4ce7&mc_eid=896d3e103a

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THEN AND NOW

Dr. Frank Smith will discuss the above topic on **May 8th** at 6:00 PM EASTERN at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in Room 401F on the floor with the People's Archive 901 G Street, N.W., Washington DC. The presentation is free. [LEARN MORE](#)



CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Summer Conference Feature

June 7-12th, 2024

**A partnership with Gettysburg National
Military Park...**

- *Interpreting Emancipation at Civil War Sites*, a panel with Chief of Interpretation, Chris Gwinn
- *Benner's Hill and the Fight for the Union Right Flank*, a tour with Ranger Troy Harman
- *Bloodshed on a Border: A Beginner's Guide to the Gettysburg Campaign*, a tour with Ranger Rachael Nicholas



Register now at <https://www.gettysburg.edu/civil-war-institute/summer-conference/registration-form>

**Be sure to inquire about our numerous discounts!
Contact us at civilwar@gettysburg.edu
or 717-337-6590 for questions and discount codes!**



[View this email in your browser](#)

CWRT LEADERS



PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S INVITATION

Please click the image above to play Lincoln's invitation to our 2024 Summer Sustainability Workshops. [VIDEO](#)

[WORKSHOPS](#)

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

Here is the updated speaker sponsorship listing:

September, 2023	Jim Davis
October, 2023	Beth Daly
November, 2023	Stephen & Theresa Fox
January, 2024	Paul T. Scott
February, 2024	Walter Sheffield
March, 2024	Bruce "Doc" Norton
April, 2024	Harry Farley
May, 2024	Kay McKinney
June, 2024	William Anderson
September, 2024	Jerre Wilson
October, 2024	Stephen & Theresa Fox
November, 2024	James Davis
January, 2025	Jack Farrington
May, 2025	Chip Willis

New Members

Congratulations and welcome aboard to our new member: Kevin Rousseau.

Please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome.

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 May meeting by calling (540) 729-0260 or (540) 361-2105, emailing elizabethdaly@juno.com or responding to this newsletter by email no later than noon on Monday, May 20, 2024. 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

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

Bruce "Doc" Norton
President

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

May 13, 2024	Kristopher White: "The Ides of May: The Wounding of James Longstreet"
June 10, 2024	Hampton Newsome: "Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond"
July 8, 2024	Stephen Evangelista: "Our Story: The Lives and Legacy of Those Who Served in Battery B First Rhode Island Light Artillery"
August 12, 2024	Gary Castellino: "Chickasaw Bayou"
September 9, 2024	T.J. Bradley: "Second Manassas"

October 14, 2024	Chris Mackowski: “Moments of Contingency and the Rise of Grant”
November 11, 2024	Paige Gibbons Backus: “Women in the Civil War”
December 9, 2024	Rob Orrison: “Potomac Blockade”