

Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

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*Next Meeting: 10/23/2024
UMW Jepson Alumni Ctr
1119 Hanover Street*

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

HARDTACK

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



SPEAKER: DR. CLAY MOUNTCASTLE
PROGRAM: PUNITIVE WAR: CONFEDERATE GUERILLAS AND UNION REPRISALS
OCTOBER 23, 2024

Punitive War:
Confederate Guerillas and Union Reprisals

In his presentation, Dr. Clay Mountcastle will discuss the subject of his book, *Punitive War: Confederate Guerillas and Union Reprisals* (University of Kansas Press: 2009) and the story behind it. He will also share his thoughts on the topic of guerrilla warfare as it relates to the Civil War.

Through widespread and relentless surprise attacks and ambushes, Confederate guerrillas drove Union soldiers and their leaders to desperation. Confederate cavalymen engaged in hit-and-run tactics; autonomous partisan rangers preyed on Federal railroads, telegraph lines, and supply wagons; and civilian bushwhackers waylaid Union pickets. Together, all of these actions persuaded the Union to wage an increasingly punitive war.

Drawing upon the guerilla attacks and Federal responses over a broad range of operational theatres, Dr. Mountcastle presents a new look at the complex nature of guerrilla warfare in the Civil War and the Union Army's calculated response to it. As the problem grew throughout the South, Union commanders were ultimately convinced to adopt retaliatory measures that challenged the sensibilities of even the most hardened soldiers.

Showing how much of the impetus for Federal retaliation originated from the bottom up, starting in the western theater in 1861, he describes how it became the most influential factor in convincing Union generals, especially Grant and Sherman, that the war needed to be extended to include civilians and their property. The result was a level of destructiveness that has been downplayed by other scholars-despite the evidence of executions and incidents of entire towns being burned to the ground. By 1864, punitive action had evolved into such a powerful and decisive force that it produced what has been called "a warfare of frightfulness."

Although guerrilla activity deviled the Union until the end, the Union's response ultimately proved a significant factor in persuading leaders like General R. E. Lee to halt guerilla activities and ultimately to surrender rather than pursue an insurgency. Dr. Mountcastle will also discuss the provocative questions about the relationship between guerrilla and conventional warfare in any conflict.

Dr. Clay Mountcastle

Dr. Mountcastle is a 1994 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and holds a Masters and PhD in History from Duke University. He served as an officer and historian in the U. S. Army for more than two decades. His military service took him to Germany, South Korea and Iraq and on assignments with the 82nd Airborne Division, US Army 5th Corps and US Army Special Operations Command. He taught military history at West Point and led the development of the military history curriculum at the US Army Combat Studies Institute at Fort Leavenworth. More recently, he served as the Professor of Military History at the University of Washington in Seattle and as an Assistant Professor of Military History at the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort



Lee, Virginia. Following his retirement from active duty with the U. S. Army, he returned to the Old Dominion and was appointed Director of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond in June 2016.

Speakers for the Remainder of the 2024-2025 Program Year

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|--------------------------|--|
| November 20, 2024 | Ambrose Burnside's Military Career
<i>Speaker: Frank O'Reilly</i> |
| January 22, 2025 | Witness to History: 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> |
| March 26, 2025 | Hunter Davidson, CSN
<i>Speaker: John Coski</i> |
| April 23, 2025 | The Battle for Bristoe Station
<i>Speaker: Kevin Pawlak</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> |
| June 18, 2025 | Forgotten Friday: The April 7, 1865 Actions in Cumberland County, VA
<i>Speaker: Patrick Schroeder</i> |

Paul Scott Receives CVBT Preservation Award

In recognition for his many contributions to Civil War preservation and history, Paul Scott received the Dr. Michael P. Stevens Preservation Award at the annual meeting of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). Tom Van Winkle, CVBT President, presented Paul the much-deserved award at the Jepson Alumni Center, September 14, 2024. The citation read as follows:

The CVBT established the annual Dr. Michael P. Stevens Preservation Award in 2017 to recognize Dr. Steven's unwavering commitment and monumental achievements as president of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and to express the Board's appreciation and admiration for his accomplishments.

The award, and the funds awarded with it, are financed by the CVBT Board members personally, and not the CVBT's donated funds. A plaque, with the recipient's name, is affixed to the trophy and that trophy remains on display at the CVBT Office. A \$1,000 monetary gift is also included.

CVBT bestows this award to an individual, or group, that continually contributes to Civil War preservation and/or education in Virginia.

Previous Recipients of the Dr. Michael P. Stevens Preservation Award:

2017 – Rappahannock Valley Civil War Roundtable

2018 – White Oak Civil War Museum – D.P. Newton

2019 – 47th Virginia Infantry, Co. I “The Stafford Guard”

2020 – Glenn Trimmer “Stafford Civil War Park”

2022 – The Fredericksburg Civil War Roundtable

2023 – Noel Harrison



Sponsorship Program

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to sponsor a presentation for this program year. Listed below are those who are sponsoring. Additional sponsorship opportunities will be announced as Program year 2025-26 is scheduled.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Program</u>
Sept 2024	Jerre Wilson	Gene Schmiel - <i>Irvin McDowell</i>
Oct 2024	Steve & Terry Fox	Clay Mountcastle - <i>Confederate Guerillas</i>
Nov 2024	Jim Davis	Frank O'Reilly - <i>Ambrose Burnside's Military Career</i>
Jan 2025	Jack Farrington	Charlie McDaniel – <i>Witness to History</i>
Feb 2025	Beth Daly	Zachery Fry – <i>A Republic in the Ranks</i>
Mar 2025	Kent/Teri Cueman	John Coski – <i>Hunter Davidson (CSN)</i>
Apr 2025	Harry Farley	Kevin Pawlak – <i>Bristoe Station</i>
May 2025	Chip Willis	Barton Myers – <i>General Winfield Scott</i>
Jun 2025	Bob Lookabill	Patrick Schroeder - <i>Forgotten Friday: April 7, 1865</i>

CIVIL WAR FRIDAYS

Almost every Friday at 7 pm, the Civil War Round Table Congress presents a series of informative, free, on-line lectures featuring leading historians and authors. Shown below is the forthcoming schedule. Registration and additional information can be found on the CWRTC website: <https://www.cwrtccongress.org/events.html>. These events are also included on the calendar section of our website: <http://www.cwrta.org/view-calendar>.

Oct 11, 2024	Curt Fields	Grant's Reflection of Benjamin Butler
Oct 18, 2024	William Griffing	Spared & Shared: Letters From the Civil War
Oct 25, 2024	Ed Lowe	Command, Control, & Disruption in the Army of Tennessee
Nov 1, 2024	Ronald S. White	Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain
Nov 8, 2024	Curt Fields	Grant's Reflection of William S. Rosecrans
Nov 15, 2024	Elizabeth Leonard	Benjamin Butler: A Noisy, Fearless Life
Nov 22, 2024	Sean Chick	General PGT Beauregard in the Civil War
Dec 6, 2024	Robert S. Levine	Frederick Douglass, Andrew Johnson, and the Work of Reconstruction
Dec 13, 2024	Curt Fields	Grant's Reflection of John A. Rawlins
Jan 10, 2025	Curt Fields	Grant's Reflection of James Longstreet
Jan 17, 2025	Ethan S. Rafuse	George McClellan: General-In-Chief
Jan 24, 2025	Jonathan Noyalas	The 1864 Valley Campaign of Cool Springs
Jan 31, 2025	Curt Fields	Grant's Reflections of Robert E. Lee
Feb 7, 2025	Ronald Kirkwood	Soldier Stories from Gettysburg's Spangler Farm
Feb 21, 2025	Paul Breuske	The Civil War Siege of Spanish Fort & the Mobile Campaign, 1865
Feb 28, 2025	James S. Pula	Union General Daniel Butterfield

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK OCTOBER 2024

Good afternoon to all of our members of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

The October dinner/presentation will be an excellent event. Dr. Clay Mountcastle will present a program titled: *Punitive War: Confederate Guerillas and Union Reprisals*. As always, we are indebted to Dr. Jerre Wilson and his wonderful search team members for finding these most distinguished speakers who bring greater historical insight to our membership. Dr. Mountcastle is the Director of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, and we are delighted to host him as our guest speaker in October.

We are also indebted to our member, Col. George Fenton, USMC (Ret), who has taken up the duties as a new CWRT Board member, and more importantly, as our new Treasurer of the Round Table. Thank you, George, for taking on these two very important responsibilities. At our September meeting, we had approximately 60 guests present. As we continue to grow, we are always looking for new members. I am asking each of our members to please speak to

family and friends and invite them to come to the October dinner/presentation. If only twenty-five members brought a guest, our membership could possibly exceed the 100 member mark.

Please make your dinner reservations early and contact Ms. Elizabeth Daly, at 540-729-0260, not later than Monday, 21 October, by 12:00, so that Beth can provide accurate numbers to the MWU catering service.

I look forward to seeing you, and your guests, on the 23rd of October.

Sincerely and with very best regards,
Bruce H. "Doc" Norton – President, Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg
Recondoc123@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Greetings CWRTF members! We've begun the 2024-2025 program year with a robust start, signing up several new members! The September program included many guests, some from out of town! As usual, we want to hear from you! Please write to me on any topics related to our Roundtable at historyCWRTF@gmail.com.

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

I would be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to our new Treasurer, **George Fenton**. The position of Treasurer for our organization is more than a few volunteer hours, it is a part-time job! A real commitment! Welcome George!

Last month in this column I wrote about the Civil War Roundtable Congress (CWRTC) Workshop in Winchester. One of the officers of the Congress, Carol Vanorum, was also a board member of the Minneapolis-St. Paul MN roundtable and approached me with an interesting idea: would the CWRTF be interested in a sister roundtable association? Carol was in my break-out group and was struck by the many similarities between the two roundtables. I was struck by the idea and came away thinking upon the endless possibilities this arrangement could bring to our organization.

In the coming weeks, the two RTs will link up via Zoom in a "meet-and-greet," and brainstorm next steps. This will be followed with a visit by a couple of the MN RT board members who will attend one of our meetings as special guests! Watch this space as I will continue to update the membership on our progress!

Recently I read a book review of the book titled *Authoritarianism in the American South: Beliefs That Led to Slavery and Civil War, 1606-1861* by Robert L. Dipboye.

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2024. Softcover, 283 pp., \$49.95. I hasten to add while the title and topic piqued my interest, the eye-watering price (along with a pledge made to my long-suffering wife not to buy any new books) meant I was unlikely to rush out and buy this book. However, the subject aligns nicely with the alarming rise in authoritarian governments around the world.

Quoting now from the review by Albert Mackey: “In this interesting book, (the author) proposes a novel explanation for not only the cause of the Civil War but also the reason why the colonists in the New World established slavery, and specifically why American southerners established a society based on slavery. He confirms the desire to protect slavery was the immediate cause for secession and thus the Civil War, but he says the root cause of the war was an authoritarian worldview among the planter class of the American South. Indeed, it was this authoritarianism, according to Professor Dipboye, that led to slavery becoming the linchpin of the southern economy and society in the antebellum years.”

Professor Dipboye, it seems, appears to have conducted prodigious research in the latest psychological studies on authoritarianism as well as scholarship on the coming of the Civil War. Quoting again from the review: “The book is strongest in explaining authoritarianism and its themes, which are first, a belief in a world filled with danger and competition; second, an orientation toward dominance and obedience; third, an “Us vs. Them” mentality; and fourth, what Professor Dipboye calls “closed mindedness.” Using fear of an “out-group,” the authoritarian leader will divide society into “Us,” which is the “in-group,” and “Them,” which is the “out-group.” The authoritarian structure demands obedience of the leadership, if that leadership serves the “in-group’s” goals, but denies the legitimacy of authorities who do not do that. Those with an authoritarian worldview will discount any information that doesn’t conform to their beliefs.

Continuing here with review: “The discussion of authoritarianism is useful in understanding the planter class and can even be useful in understanding a number of politicians and other elites throughout history up to the present day. He tells us how the authoritarian mindset corrupted the thinking of the southern elites and even corrupted the power structure of the United States with Supreme Court decisions such as the infamous Dred Scott v. Sandford decision regarding slavery being some of his prime evidence. During the first four decades of the United States, slaveholders controlled the operation of the government, and some of the compromises made in writing the Constitution dealt with mollifying the fears of slaveholders. The authoritarian worldview these slaveholding men held influenced their actions and their arguments.”

The book appears to make an important contribution to our understanding of the people who led the secession movement, as well as our understanding of how they were able to gain the support of so many. Additionally, as the reviewer points out, it may add to an understanding of the behavior of elites to the present day.

If anyone reading this, buys and reads the book, I’d love to your own assessment of the author’s thesis and topic. Reaching back in history, especially our own, and more importantly to our RT, to understand the roots and causes of the American Civil War holds

lessons for all Americans. Seemingly, it is an interesting approach to understanding the growing threat of authoritarianism.

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

David Hamon, Membership Chair
historyCWRTF@gmail.com

Authoritarianism in the American South

*Beliefs That Led to Slavery and
Civil War, 1606–1861*



ROBERT L. DIPBOYE



**2024 Call for Nominations
for the**

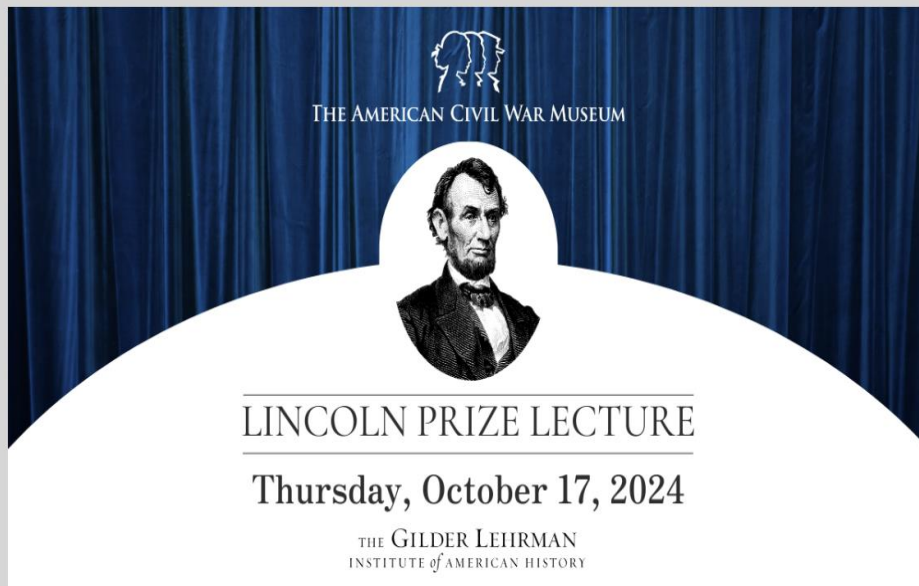
**Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award
and the
Edwin C. Bearss Legacy Award
Due November 1, 2024**

The Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia (CWRTDC) created two awards (one monetary and the other non-monetary) to honor the life and legacy of one of the Nation's preeminent Civil War historians: the late Edwin C. Bearss. Ed spent more than seven decades crusading for battlefield site preservation, expanding interest and education in the military, political and socio-cultural history of events leading up to the Civil War, the War itself, and its aftermath. He also led countless tours of battlefields and other Civil War related sites.

Severely wounded as a Marine in the South Pacific during WW2, Ed understood the chaos and horror of battle and therefore was uniquely able to communicate the battlefield experience to his audience. He authored more than two dozen books on the Civil War, joined the US National Park Service, and served as its chief historian from 1981-1994 and later as its Historian Emeritus.

With Ed's passing in 2020, the Round Table decided to create these awards to continue his mission to protect, preserve and interpret Civil War sites around the country. Nominations are welcome from all and are due **November 1, 2024**. More information about Ed Bearss and the Awards Program nomination and application process is available at <https://cwrtdc-calendar.blogspot.com/> Or contact Karl Garman, Chair of the CWRTDC's Awards Selections Committee at karl.e.garman@gmail.com or at 703.538.5962.

Monetary gifts to support the Awards program are essential to its continuation and may be made through the CWRTDC website at <https://cwrtdc-calendar.blogspot.com/p/ed-bearss-awards-donation-page.html> All gifts and donations are maintained separately from the Round Table's regular accounts and donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



Save the date for our annual **Lincoln Prize Lecture**, to be held on **October 17th** at the American Civil War Museum (ACWM) at Tredegar in Richmond, Virginia. Featured speakers will be this year's recipients of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Lincoln Prize, Dr. Frances M. Clarke and Dr. Rebecca Jo Plant. They were awarded the 2024 Lincoln Prize for their book *Of Age: Boy Soldiers and Military Power in the Civil War Era*.



ACWM - APPOMATTOX FALL FESTIVAL

It's the annual Fall Festival at our Appomattox, VA site on **October 26th!** Come for a fun-filled day of local music, pumpkin painting, dancing, wood carving, blacksmithing, hearth cooking, and cannon firing demonstrations! Food, local vendors, history partners & programs. We can't wait to see you there! FREE TICKETS

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

New Members

Congratulations and welcome aboard to our new members: Kevin McAllister, Joshua King, and Jim & Beth Stenstrom. Please introduce yourself and make them 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 October meeting by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly@juno.com or responding to this newsletter by email no later than noon on Monday, October 21, 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 October 23 meeting.

Bruce "Doc" Norton
President

Our Sister Round Table - Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table meets on the second Monday of the month at Brock's Riverside Grill, Sophia Street at Lafayette Blvd. Social time begins at 6:00, dinner begins at 6:45 with the meeting at 7:30. Upcoming presentations are:

October 14, 2024

Chris Mackowski: "Moments of Contingency and the Rise of Grant"

November 11, 2024

Nathan Hall: The Richmond Resistance: Those Who Secretly Fought the Civil War from Inside the Confederate Capital

December 9, 2024

Rob Orrison: "Potomac Blockade"