



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



OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

October 2025

Good morning, All,

This letter is primarily a “thank you” letter to the members and guests who attended our September meeting of the Round Table. We had the pleasure of listening to (and seeing) Dr. Gary W. Gallagher’s presentation on the “**Myths and Misconceptions**” of the Civil War, which was so very well received by all in attendance. His presentation certainly challenges what many of us thought were factual actuaries of Civil War history. My sincere thanks, as well, to Dr. Jerre Wilson, Mr. David Hamon and Mr. Scott Boyd for persuading Dr. Gallagher to spend an evening with us, via Zoom session, which was a “first” for the Round Table, and as stated was well received by our members.

In addition, my thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Fox for hosting 6 guests from their “Walking Club” as dinner guests at the Round Table. This is a wonderful example of what our general membership should try and do to create a continuing growth of our great organization. We had 98 people in attendance at the September meeting, which I believe is a record number for total attendance, and another “first” for the Round Table. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Fox, and all of the other members of the Round Table who hosted their guests in September.

The October 22nd meeting will be a presentation of “**From Ironclad to Admiral: Admiral John Worden**,” presented by Dr. John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus of the USS Monitor Center, at The Mariner’s Museum and Park in Newport News, Virginia. John is an award-winning historian, author of 19 books, and a devout preservationist. We are delighted to have him join us on Wednesday, the 22nd of October, at the Jepson Executive Alumni Center, for another great presentation.

Lastly, a reminder that at our November 19th meeting, **we will have the pleasure of Mr. Ronald F. Maxwell, the Director and Producer of the Civil War Movies: Gettysburg, Gods and Generals, and Copperhead, joining us as a distinguished guest of the Round Table.** Please encourage your friends to come and meet Mr. Maxwell at our November meeting. Ron will give a brief presentation on his work and future movies to come. We

expect to have another excellent attendance, so please **post this on your calendar** for a great evening at the Jepson Center. I encourage you to invite your friends to attend, too.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not thank the Staff at the Jepson Center for their great service to all of the members and guests of the Round Table. The Jepson Center is a beautiful location and always receives great compliments from our guests and presenters. The buffet dinner is always noteworthy, as is the staff who make it all happen. The members of the Civil War Round Table thank you for your hard work and dedication in making every meeting and dinner a wonderful event.

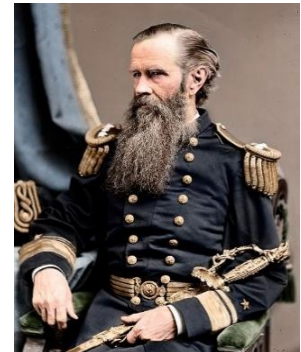
It is an honor and a pleasure to serve as the President of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, and I look forward to seeing you and your guests at our October meeting.

Most sincerely,

Bruce H. “Doc” Norton – President CWRT of Fredericksburg

FROM IRONCLAD TO ADMIRAL: ADMIRAL JOHN WORDEN

Throughout his 52-year career, Rear Adm. John Lorimer Worden was always the right officer for the job. The epitome of an innovative commander who helped move the U.S. Navy out of the age of sail and into the era of ironclad technology, Worden’s contributions extended beyond the Battle of Hampton Roads and shaped the future of the Navy. He demonstrated exceptional leadership in both combat and peacetime.



After delivering secret dispatches in 1861 that kept Fort Pickens in Florida for the Union, Worden attempted to return to Washington, D.C., and was arrested by Confederate authorities, thus becoming the first prisoner of war during the Civil War. After six months in captivity, he returned to command the USS *Monitor*—the “little ship that saved the nation”—at the historic Battle of Hampton Roads. There, he faced the Confederate CSS *Virginia* in the first-ever clash of ironclads, suffering severe wounds while fighting the battle to a standstill. Upon recovery, he returned to command the USS *Montauk*.

After the war, Worden became superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, where he trained the next generation of naval officers and co-founded the U.S. Naval Institute. Worden also managed sensitive issues surrounding the appointment of the first African American midshipman and the first Japanese midshipman while he helmed the academy. Worden capped his career by ably serving as commander-in-chief of the European Squadron during a time of upheaval on that continent. Dr. John Quarstein will explore Worden's extraordinary life.

SPEAKER: DR. JOHN V. QUARSTEIN

Dr. John V. Quarstein served as the director of the Virginia War Museum until he retired in 2008 after thirty years of service. He is director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center at The Mariners' Museum and Park. He has authored over twenty books and has written numerous articles, exhibits, essays, and documentaries. John's deep interest in all things related to the Civil War stems from his youth living on Fort Monroe, walking where Abraham Lincoln and R. E. Lee once stood. An avid collector of decoys, waterfowl/maritime art, and oriental rugs, John lives among them in his home, the 1757 Herbert House on Sunset Creek in Hampton, Virginia. On the National Register of Historic Places, this is the only house to have survived August 7, 1861, burning of Hampton.



SEPTEMBER MEETING

The September meeting was a very notable event for our Round Table. Not only did we hear from one of the country's leading Civil War historians, Dr. Gary Gallagher, but we conducted the session in the Jepson Alumni Executive Center via a Zoom presentation. Since he lives in California this was the only way we could have a personal session. His thought-provoking analysis of four critical areas of the war challenged conventional wisdom and caused us to reflect on common beliefs. Many thanks to our AV expert and all-around good guy, Cameron Wills, for making it possible.



SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP

Special thanks to Jack Farrington for his sponsorship of this month's program. Please consider sponsoring a program. It's a great way to support our Round Table.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

November 19, 2025 The Pathfinder and the President: John C. Fremont, Abraham Lincoln and the Battle for Emancipation
Speaker: John Bicknell

January 28, 2026 Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer
Speaker: Karen Stone

For a complete list of presentations see: <http://www.cwrta.org/Program-Year-2025-2026>

The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

October 13, 2025 Dear Uncles: The Civil War Letters of Arthur McKinstry
Speaker: Rick Barram

November 10, 2025 Battle of Cool Spring
Speaker: Jonathan Noyales

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

UPCOMING LOCAL EVENT

Member William Daly shares the following information that may be of interest:

This year the Irish Brigade memorial ceremony will be on Sunday, December 14, the day AFTER the anniversary of the December 13, 1862 battle. We will assemble at 10AM at the monument location on Sophia Street at the City Dock. Afterwards, we traditionally have lunch at the Colonial Tavern on Lafayette Boulevard.

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 October 22 meeting by noon October 20 by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com, or visiting our website at www.cwrta.org. If you must cancel, please do so by noon of the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

What a start to the program year! We were certainly blessed to have Gary Gallagher speak to us, truly a Civil War historian superstar, coming to us from the heights of modern technology! What an evening!

As I pen this month's column, we are making good progress with renewals. Many of you are bringing in new members by "getting out the word!" Since Fredericksburg is a "word-of-mouth town," the best recruiting method for bringing in new members is to speak with your "network" (and beyond) about the great educational benefits of our history programs.

Speaking of history, the Public Broadcasting giant and Documentarian Ken Burns will come back to us in November with "The American Revolution."

"THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION, a new six-part, 12-hour documentary series that explores the country's founding struggle and its eight-year War for Independence, will premiere on Sunday, November 16 and air for six consecutive nights through Friday, November 21st, at 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET on PBS. The much-anticipated series has been in production for eight years. The filmmakers and PBS scheduled the broadcast for 2025, the 250th anniversary of the start of the war, which began in the spring of 1775, more than a year before the Declaration of Independence. THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION examines how America's founding turned the world upside-down. Thirteen British colonies on the Atlantic Coast rose in rebellion, won their independence, and established a new form of government that radically reshaped the continent and inspired centuries of democratic movements around the globe.

This is perhaps a great opportunity to mention in casual conversation to your neighbors, friends, casual acquaintances, total strangers (just kidding) in the area a thing or two about Burns.

"Well, you know," you would say in this conversation, "Ken Burns got his start in this business with an innovative and iconic method of teaching a television audience about history! Yes, his first production was on the American Civil War!"

"Really? I never knew he produced a series on the Civil War?" would come the response from your conversant, especially if your counterpart is younger since the young think history began the day they were born.

Pressing your point further, in this, my fantasy conversation, you continue: "the new series on the American Revolution is part of the commemoration observance of the 250th Anniversary of the country! The earlier Burns masterpiece and wonderful visual and unique audio approach to interpreting the Civil War to a new audience broke the mold for public history."

And you press your advantage, getting to the best part: "interestingly enough, there wouldn't be a 250th anniversary if it wasn't for this war." (Pause for effect) "Indeed," you continue, "if not for the great victory of the Union and the leadership of President Lincoln and General Grant, the United States as we know it today would likely be much different."

By now you would have gotten the full attention of your neighbor. “Hmmm...well, I never thought of that!”

And finally, you say: “Why don’t you come with me to the next meeting of our Civil War Roundtable of Fredericksburg? We have marvelous history programs where we learn a great deal about our American Civil War with a rare combination of strategy, battles, biographies of those who fought the war, social and cultural topics, and unique perspectives from top public and academic historians.”

Turning for a moment to our **CWRTF rack cards** (please let me know if you need some and I’ll pop a few in the post for you to use), our logo comes from the statue of the “Angel of Marye’s Heights” on the Fredericksburg National Park Service grounds capturing the iconic moment when Confederate soldier Richard Rowland Kirkland gave water to the many Union fallen after the battle of Fredericksburg. Did you know, the sculptor of this Fredericksburg treasure, Felix Weihs de Weldon, an Austrian born artist, was also the architect of the famous Iwo Jima Marine Corps Memorial (among many other statuary in the DC area)? Check it out here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Felix_de_Weldon

As your CWRTF Board of Directors continues to sharpen its marketing approach, our logo is getting a facelift, thanks in part to the marvels of modern technology -- watch this space for a sneak peek! Let us hear from you about how the CWRTF might contribute to other local (Fredericksburg) events! As usual, I would be interested in your views. **What are your suggestions on civic engagement and aid in the preservation of Civil War history?** How do we ensure the CWRTF survives? I would welcome your ideas and thoughts. Hit me up with your ideas at historyCWRTF@gmail.com.

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.

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

Write to David Hamon:
historyCWRTF@gmail.com

OFFICERS

President	Bruce "Doc" Norton	recondoc123@gmail.com
Vice President	Russell Willis	chipwillis3rd@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth "Beth" Daly	elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com
Treasurer	George Fenton	gpfenton1974@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

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

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-- CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.--

Membership Application

Name: _____
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City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home/Cell Phone Number: _____
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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	\$ _____
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