



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



MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

May 28, 2025 Meeting

**PROGRAM: "THE GRAND OLD MAN OF THE ARMY: GENERAL
WINFIELD SCOTT'S UNIONISM AND THE SECESSION CRISIS"**

General Winfield Scott, the General in Chief of the U.S. Army, is an important but often overlooked figure of the late antebellum period. He played a crucial role in the American government for two decades before the Civil War. This raises questions about how his stance on slavery, abolition, and unionism influenced his decisions between 1860 and 1861. To explore his personal loyalty, our speaker will analyze his relationships with notable figures like James Buchanan, John B. Floyd, Abraham Lincoln, and Robert E. Lee, among others, during the sectional crisis.



SPEAKER: Dr. BARTON MYERS

Barton A. Myers is Professor of History at Washington and Lee University and the author of the awarding winning [*Executing Daniel Bright: Race, Loyalty, and Guerrilla Violence in a Coastal Carolina Community, 1861-1865*](#) (LSU Press, 2009), [*Rebels Against the Confederacy: North Carolina's Unionists*](#) (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014), and co-editor with Brian D. McKnight of [*The Guerrilla Hunters: Irregular Conflicts during the Civil War*](#) (LSU Press, 2017). Dr. Myers is a recipient of prestigious grants and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, the American Philosophical Society, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Marine Corps Historical Center, the Filson Historical Society, and the Virginia Historical Society. He was featured in the acclaimed HISTORY Channel documentary series GRANT, produced by Leonardo DiCaprio and historian Ron Chernow, as well as the HISTORY



Channel miniseries event ABRAHAM LINCOLN, produced by historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. Most recently, he served as an expert in the HISTORY series “DARK MARVELS” on the world history of diabolical military technology.

Special thanks to Chip Willis for his sponsorship of this month’s program. Please consider sponsoring a program for \$250. It’s a great way to support our Round Table.

APRIL MEETING REVIEW

During our April meeting, Kevin Pawlak provided a comprehensive, informative, and entertaining description of the Battle of Bristoe Station. His familiarity with the battlefield and the events of October 14, 1863, were apparent as he explained the tactics and mistakes of both sides. A.P. Hill’s Corps attacked what he thought was the rear elements of a retreating Union Army. Had Hill conducted a proper reconnaissance, he would have realized that he was actually attacking between Syke’s V Corps and Warren’s II Corps. Warren was able to place his forces behind the Orange & Alexandria Railroad and inflict heavy casualties on the attacking Confederate troops. Confederate losses were about 1,380, while the Union Army lost about 540, resulting in a clear victory for Meade’s Union Army. That evening Warren withdrew his troops, surprising the Confederate troops they faced, thus ending the battle. Following his description of the one-day fight, Kevin provided an update on preservation efforts. The good news is that additional land will soon be added to the protected land, expanding the Bristoe Station Battlefield Park.



UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

June 18, 2025 Forgotten Friday: The April 7, 1865 Actions in
Cumberland County, VA
Speaker: Patrick Schroeder

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

The Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

June 9, 2025 The Union’s Most Infamous Civil War Prison Camp –
Elmira, NY
Speaker: Derick Maxfield

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

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
Sustaining Member:	\$120
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

May 2025

Greetings to our great members of the Round Table,

We now have just two remaining dinner/presentations until our final meeting in June. As always, I am most grateful to our members for giving us the excellent attendance figures for every meeting to date.

For an organization with one hundred and ten paid members, we continuously exceed 75 attendees at each dinner/presentation. Thank you very much for your important and continued support.

I ask and encourage every member of the Round Table to invite a prospective new member guest(s) to attend our May and June dinner/presentations.

I'll look forward to seeing all of you at the May 28th dinner/presentation.

In closing, it is both a privilege and an honor to serve as the President of the Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg.

Most sincerely,

Bruce H. "Doc" Norton – President CWRT of Fredericksburg

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

This month's Membership Minute post is co-authored by me and Carol VanOrnum from the TCCWRT.

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Fredericksburg and Twin Cities CWRTs Create Sister Round Table Alliance By David Hamon and Carol VanOrnum

In 2024, representatives from 15 Civil War Round Tables gathered at Shenandoah University in Winchester VA to participate in a CWRT Congress workshop on ways to improve their round tables. Among those attending were members of the CWRT of Fredericksburg, David Hamon and Jerre Wilson, and Carol VanOrnum of the Twin Cities CWRT and CWRT Congress.

“I always have an ear open for growth ideas for my own round table,” said Carol. “Knowing that the CWRT meeting trend is moving away from dinner meetings, my ears perked up when I overheard Mr. Hamon share that Fredericksburg held dinner meetings like us. A kindred round table spirit, I thought. I approached David and asked if his round table had ever considered becoming part of a Sister Round Table. We agreed to talk again.” What is a Sister Round Table? Creating an alliance with another round table is a helpful and mutually beneficial arrangement. While most “Sisters” are created with other round tables in close proximity, they don’t have to be. The benefits are still abundant. Typically, newsletters are exchanged, as well as technical knowledge and support. Best practices are shared to strengthen each other’s weaknesses. Sometimes sharing speakers and organized tours are planned. It can be as little or as much as is desired and/or needed. In essence, it’s like having a friendly conversation with a neighbor.

Let us introduce ourselves!

David Hamon: The Civil War Roundtable Fredericksburg (CWRTF) was created in 1957 as a civic organization that wished to study the civil war history of the greater Fredericksburg area, and the four major battles fought here during the war.

It all began in January 1957 when Lemuel Houston, Spencer Berry, Raiford Sumner, and “Hotsie” Moore gathered in the pool parlor of the Princess Anne Hotel. Discussions had been

ongoing about forming a Round Table and a group of prominent citizens decided it was time to move forward. That meeting was followed by an initial gathering on February 25, 1957, when Albert Dillahunty showed the film "Shiloh." In the first formal presentation on March 25, 1957, Francis Wishing presented "First Manassas." These meetings formed the foundation for the CWRTF and by the end of March, over 100 charter members had joined. The "charter" of the organization was to study and further stimulate interest in the military history of the Civil War period (1861-1865).

Currently we have 109 members plus three "honorary" members. We have a similar governance process. We meet monthly, September to June except December, and host monthly in-person dinners followed by a presentation on a variety of Civil War topics. We try to limit our presentation to only two tactical (battle) topics because there is so much more to the American Civil War than battles.

Carol VanOrnum: The TCCWRT was formed in 1955. We are one of nine CWRs in Minnesota and the largest. Bylaws were created in 1995, allowing for one-year terms for the Vice President and President, and two-year terms for the Secretary and Treasurer. We have 184 members, meet from September to May, hold a state-wide symposium in April, and a picnic in July.

David Hamon: By forming this alliance, we hope to share good ideas on strengthening the task, purpose, and longevity of our RTs, including recruiting and sustaining new members, sharing tips on good speakers, and cultural virtues of our RTs would be but a few. At some point, extend the "virtual" and correspondence aspect of the sister relationship to fellowship including a visiting exchange of members! We'd love to host a delegation from the TCCWRT and organize battlefield tours, museums, etc., perhaps hold discussions on history, sample some local craft beer (I just threw that part in...I have reliable intelligence Minnesotans have been known to drink beer!), but most importantly, learn from each other and make new friends.

Carol VanOrnum: The TCCWRT takes pride in our speaker care, but we could use some help in recruiting volunteers, technical support (our Zooming and recording for YouTube is on a learning curve), caring for new members and guests, and recognition of anniversaries and achievements. Minnesota is far from any battlefields, but if one were to visit, the Capitol building is a must-see due to its many Civil War-related artifacts and statues. Our pride and joy are the very large paintings in the Governor's Reception Room, in particular, Howard Pyles' world-renowned 6x8 feet mural of the Battle of Nashville. In addition, we are located close to the fiercely fought Birch Coulee battle, part of the Dakota War battlefield.

David Hamon: No visit of the Fredericksburg would be complete without a trolley tour of the old city where one would visualize the many layers of history we have here.

A "must see" visit to the Fredericksburg National Historic Park (and Museum) and the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

Chatham House (Burnside's HQ during the battle of Fredericksburg).

Battlefield tours at a number of local battlefields including Fredericksburg (1st and 2d), Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania. The nearby area of Culpeper last year opened a new State Civil War Park that includes four major Civil War battles fought in Culpeper County: Brandy Station (largest cavalry battle in North America), Cedar Mountain, Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station.

We hope that this introduction will serve as a welcome to our respective round tables. Watch for an exchange of future newsletters. We hope curiosity will inspire you to want to learn about our processes and procedures and how we can help each other grow and thrive. Plus, some fun events may transpire.

If you have questions about your Sister Round Table, let us know. We can publish it in the next newsletter.

Sincerely, Carol VanOrnum and David Hamon

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

David Hamon, Membership Chair

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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	\$ _____
Sponsoring Member:	\$120.00	
Student/NMPS Intern:	No Charge	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:		\$ _____

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