CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG, INC.

HARDTACK

OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the President's Desk

October 28, 2026

Our September meeting got the 2026-2027 Program Year off to a great start. With 108 attendees, we had one of our largest gatherings ever. Thanks to everyone for your superb support. Our speaker, Dr. Scott Hippensteel, was superb and challenged us to think critically about some of the most iconic Civil War photographs. He noted that some photographers staged photos by moving bodies, weapons, and surrounding features on the battlefield. These photos have been published in a wide variety of publications over the years, often presenting a false narrative of the actual event. Thanks to our Program Chairman, Scott Boyd, for coordinating Dr. Hippensteel's talk.

It was an honor to receive the Wallace Rueckel Award for Innovation from Mr. Mike Movius, president of the Civil War Roundtable Congress. Mr. Rueckel established the Brunswick Civil War Roundtable, the largest in the nation. He was a leader in the roundtable community and led a group of organizers to found the Civil War Roundtable Congress. Our award was based on the work to codify and implement administrative procedures that define how our Round Table operates. This will be extremely helpful when we transition officers and members of the Board of Directors. George Fenton, Steve Fox and David Hamon were instrumental in the development of these procedures.

As a reminder, we will join the Ladies Memorial Association on October 24, 2026, at 9am for placement of flat stones in the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery. This work is needed before the identification of soldiers buried there are lost in history. Please plan to attend and support if you are able and your schedule permits. Thanks to Basil Moncrief for coordinating this worthwhile effort.

Thank you to those members who are sponsoring a program. We now have sponsors for all presentations, and, in fact, several have two sponsors. There's always room for more sponsors if anyone is still interested. It's a great way to support our Round Table.

Special thanks to Julie Jennings for including our Round Table in the winter edition of the Fredericksburg Guidebook. The health of our organization depends on maintaining a vibrant membership. Outreach efforts such as this help us contact potential new members and promote our Round Table. Well done, Julie.

Please plan to attend this month when Dr. Jonathan Noyalas discusses General Philip Sheridan. It's a great opportunity to learn more about one of the most controversial figures of the Civil War.

I look forward to seeing you on October 28.

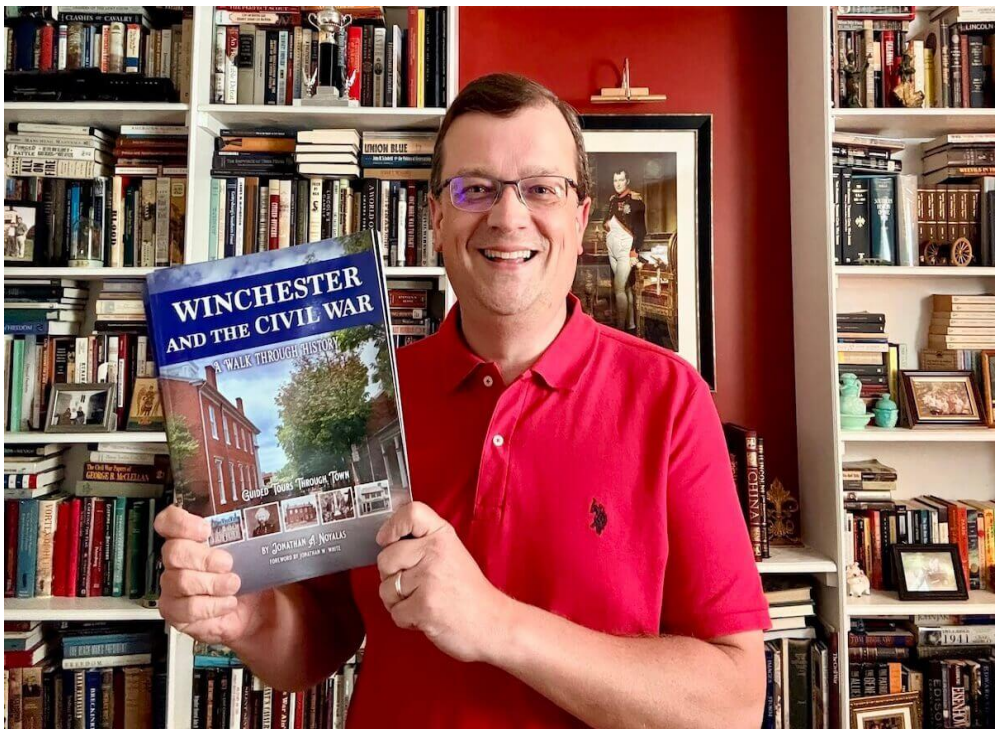
Jerre Wilson

October 28, 2026 Meeting

PROGRAM: GENERAL PHILIP H. SHERIDAN: LIFE, WAR, AND MEMORY

Following the death of General Philip H. Sheridan in the summer of 1888, fierce debates arose over how Sheridan, regarded as one of the Union's "three great generals" during the Civil War and a divisive figure, should be remembered. "After I am Gone: The Battle for General Philip H. Sheridan's Legacy," based on the speaker's recently published book General Philip H. Sheridan: Life, War, and Memory (Routledge), will examine how Sheridan's allies, including his widow Irene, Union veterans, political figures, and artists including Carl Augustus Heber and Gutzon Borglum, waged fierce campaigns to shape "Little Phil's" place in American history.

SPEAKER: PROF. JONATHAN A. NOVALAS



Prof. Jonathan A. Noyalas is the Hugh & Virginia McCormick Chair in Civil War History at Shenandoah University and is director of Shenandoah's McCormick Civil War Institute. He is the author or editor of eighteen books, including most recently *General Philip H. Sheridan: Life, War, and Memory* (Routledge) and *Winchester and the Civil War: A Walk Through History* (Reedy Press). Prof. Noyalas has also published more than 100 articles, essays, chapters, and reviews for a variety of scholarly and popular publications. Prof. Noyalas has also consulted on various projects for groups including the National Park Service, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, National Geographic, and PBS's popular series "Finding Your Roots." He has appeared on C-SPAN's American History TV, NPR's "With Good Reason," and PCN. He has also received numerous awards for his teaching and scholarship, including Shenandoah University's Exemplary Teaching Award for the First Year Seminar and the State Council for Higher Education in Virginia's Outstanding Faculty Award.

SPEAKER SPONSORSHIP

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

FORTHCOMING PRESENTATIONS

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg, Inc.

Nov 18, 2026	Ron Maxwell – *The Making of Civil War Films (Gettysburg & Gods and Generals)*
Jan 27, 2027	Erik Nelson – *Forgotten Battles of the Chancellorsville Campaign*
Feb 24, 2027	Karen Stone - *Disaster in Pursuit of Lincoln's Killer* (also 70th Anniversary Celebration of CWRTF)

For a complete list of Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg presentations see: https://www.cwrtf.org/program-year

Rappahannock Civil War Round Table

Oct 12, 2026	GW Archaeology Team – *Excavating Civil War Camp Life*
Nov 9, 2026	Scott Patchan – *1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign*
Dec 14, 2026	Peter Maugle – *Myths of Fredericksburg*

Civil War Roundtable Congress Friday Lectures

The Civil War Round Table Congress presents free online lectures at 7pm on most Fridays. Forthcoming sessions are:

Oct 23, 2026	Curt Fields – *1867: Prelude to the Presidency*

Oct 30, 2026	Evan Portman – *The Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg*
Nov 6, 2026	Kellie Gormly – *Crease Firing: Life & Death at the Swope Manor*

For registration and a complete listing of the Civil War Roundtable Congress lectures visit: https://www.cwrtcongress.org/future-events/fridays.html

---

BECOMING A HELL OF A REGIMENT: THE TWENTIETH MAINE AT FREDERICKSBURG IN HISTORY AND MEMORY

A Talk and Walking Tour with Jared Peatman
November 1 @ 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Though famous for its actions at Gettysburg, the Twentieth Maine's first major battle – and the one that set it up to earn glory seven months later – was Fredericksburg. Fifty years later, differing interpretations of that same battle turned former comrades Joshua Chamberlain and Ellis Spear into enemies, and provided much fodder for today's anti-Chamberlain crowd.

Join us November 1, 2026, first at the CVBT office as Jared Peatman, author of the recently-released *A Hell of a Regiment: To Gettysburg and Beyond with the Twentieth Maine*, reveals the dynamics of the Twentieth Maine on the eve of the Battle of Fredericksburg, the impact of the great battle on the unit, and then the controversies that arose with Joshua Chamberlain's January 1913 account "My Story of Fredericksburg." Then, we'll pick up with the tour portion of the program and follow in the footsteps of the Twentieth Maine from December 13-16, 1862, as they attacked Marye's Heights on December 13-14 before acting as part of the army's rearguard on December 15-16.

Click the link below for more information:

https://cvbt.org/event/becoming-a-hell-of-a-regiment-the-twentieth-maine-at-fredericksburg-in-history-and-memory-a-talk-and-walking-tour-with-jared-peatman/

THE ADJUTANT'S DISPATCH

OCTOBER 2026

Did CWRTs Save Civil War History?

We in the Civil War Round Table community believe Round Tables lead the way in preserving Civil War history in our communities. Truthfully, we have benefited from and been influenced by the storied contributions of public historians as speakers, interpreters, and guides. Together with the evolution of community-based history clubs, often taking the form

of local history societies, heritage groups, antiquarian clubs, and historical preservation circles, the appreciation of Civil War History and the contribution of CWRTs have kept community study of Civil War History alive, vibrant, and fresh.

History clubs are intricately linked to a long history of civic engagement. Far from being passive study groups, these clubs have long served as vehicles for local identity, civic pride, democratic participation, and sometimes for community advocacy. The earliest historical societies in North America, such as the Massachusetts Historical Society (founded in 1791), were created by elites, scholars, and prominent civic leaders. The civic purpose of these early clubs was to archive documents, preserve foundational stories, and cultivate a shared national or regional identity as the young nation grew and expanded. Early members recognized that as rapid industrialization and migration changed towns, local stories and artifacts risked being lost without deliberate direct action community preservation.

In the 1850s, women-led grassroots groups like the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association pioneered historic site preservation by saving George Washington's estate, establishing a precedent for citizen-led historical stewardship.

Whilst these early clubs were elitist in nature with limited membership, things changed during the "Progressive Era." Memberships "democratized" and history clubs expanded from the exclusive scholar networks into a multitude of popular grassroots organizations open to broader community participation. As cities grew with expanding immigrant populations, local history clubs were used to nurture a collective sense of place. Many clubs sought to document town and county origins and preserve these histories. Clubs began founding and operating local museums, hosting public lectures, and observing and commemorating important dates and events, making history a shared experience.

The destruction of buildings for the so-called "urban renewal" led local history clubs to link civic action with historic preservation. Many preservation foundations across the country owe their creation to concerned members of history clubs that acted in the face of the unacceptable and irresponsible actions of developers. Modern day "urban planning" activity owes its origins to these clubs and their members.

The 1976 Bicentennial celebration was a tremendous boon for history clubs as the commemoration activities sparked a massive wave of grassroots history. Communities nationwide formed local committees—led by history clubs—to write town histories, gather and preserve recorded oral histories, and establish local archives.

Public History, today a noble and respected profession, traces its roots to the practice of historical research, preservation, and interpretation conducted outside traditional academic classrooms designed for public audiences and marked how history evolved from a civic duty into a specialized profession and, ultimately, a collaborative movement. The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), established in 1940, helped practitioners partner with local libraries, universities, and schools to turn local historical research into both public interpretation and community action. With this boost, history was more than the academic: it became a platform to create stories and give voice to local actors who aided and shaped communities' understanding of local history.

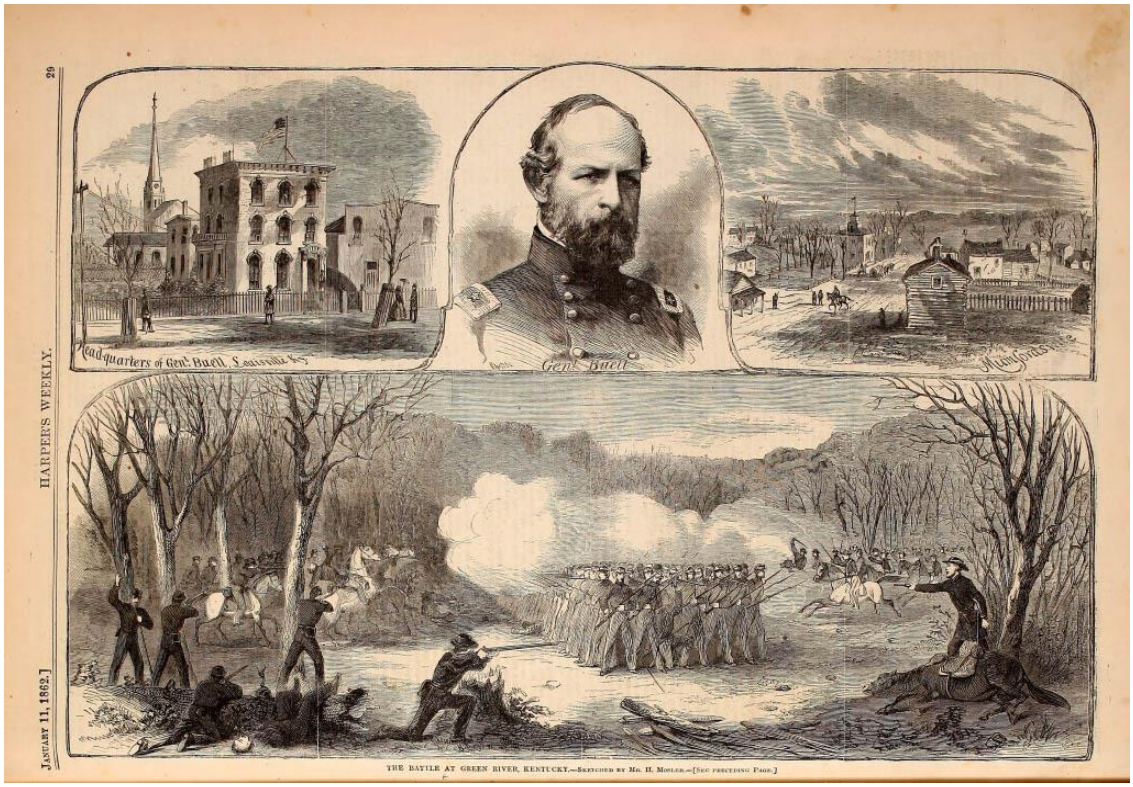
Federal government involvement in public interpretation began with the creation of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) in 1916. By the 1930s, NPS park rangers and historical guides were interpreting battlefields and natural landmarks directly for visitors. The Great Depression marked the first time the government employed historians on a massive public scale. Works Progress Administration (WPA) under the New Deal gave birth to many federal initiatives like the Federal Writers' Project. This project hired writers, teachers, and researchers to document local history, publish state travel guides, and conduct thousands of recorded interviews with formerly enslaved people (the "Born in the Black/Slave Narratives").
Established in 1933, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) employed architects and historians to create a national archive of historic architecture through "blueprints," drawings, and photographs. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 was legislation created in response to the widespread destruction of historical neighborhoods caused by urban renewal and highway construction; the NHPA established State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and created Section 106 review processes. This legal framework created a sudden demand for professional cultural resource managers and preservation specialists.

During the late 1970s, "public history" formally emerged as a recognized professional field and academic discipline. Robert Kelly, a historian and professor at the University of California Santa Barbara, established the first graduate program in Public History explicitly for academic training of historians to apply their skills in business, environmental policy, and government.

Public historians continue enriching the history field today with the popularity of "Living Historians." Living Historians are highly respected and professional public historians. The hyper use of the internet, crowdsourced genealogy, digital archives, mobile walking tour apps, and interactive museum exhibits, expanded how public historians engage audiences, allowing people to interact with historical sources directly in a genre termed "digital public history." Which brings me back to CWRTs. We CWRT leaders owe tribute to those pioneers and civic leaders who came before us, studying and preserving American history. Taken together as a group, our CWRTs, history clubs of all stripes, and public / living historians, join forces to enliven the study of Civil War History.

Until next month, "May Love of Country Lead You."

--David Hamon



As a reminder, we will join the Ladies Memorial Association on Saturday, October 24, 2026, at 9am for placement of flat stones in the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery. This work is needed before the identification of soldiers buried there are lost in history. Please plan to attend and support if you are able and your schedule permits. Notify Basil Moncrief via email at red69hoss@yahoo.com or text at (240) 377-1237 if you can make it for this worthwhile effort.

NEW MEMBERS

Thanks to everyone for your recruitment efforts. Please welcome our newest members shown below. Please introduce yourself at our meetings and welcome them to our Round Table.

Jon Sachrison	Blanton Massey	Anne Smart	Sandra Gillenwater
Jackson Stevens	Laura Smart	Chip Fallon	Charles Neimeyer
Jon Hull	Central Virginia Battlefield Trust (Corporate Member)		

Honor Our Legacy
Program Year 2026-27 Tiered Donation Program

Donations and sponsorship are vital to maintaining the financial stability of our Round Table. To encourage and recognize donations, the Board proposes to implement a tiered system for contributions. While we will retain program sponsorship at the "Soldier" level, other tiers will identify contributions at various levels as outlined below. Donations will be acknowledged at monthly meetings.

Valor	$2000+
Patriot	$1000+
Family Heritage	$ 500+
Soldiers	$ 250+*
Volunteers	$ 120+*
Conscripts	$ 50+

* Program Sponsorship is at the “Soldiers” Level; Sustained Membership is at the “Volunteer” level.

TREASURER'S NOTE: Meal Costs, Reservations, and Cancellations

Please note the following important updates and reminders regarding our monthly dinner-lecture meetings:

Meal Costs: The cost is $40 per person. A member's guest may attend up to two dinner meetings at this $40 rate; subsequent meetings will cost $50 per guest.

Reservations: Reservations are required for all members and guests. Walk-ins will be placed on a waitlist and seated only if a registered attendee fails to arrive.

Cancellations: Cancellations must be made by noon on the Monday before the event. Because the CWRTF is contractually obligated to pay for all reserved meals, members who fail to cancel by the deadline will be held responsible for the cost, and the Treasurer will contact you directly for payment. As a not-for-profit organization, the CWRTF cannot cover these expenses.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

_____

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 28 meeting by noon on Monday, October 26 by calling (540) 729-0260, emailing elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com, or visiting our website at www.cwrtf.org. If you must cancel, please do so by noon the Monday prior to the meeting. Otherwise, you will be responsible for payment.

OFFICERS

President	Jerre Wilson	maxdog222@gmail.com
Vice President	David Hamon	blungrey@gmail.com
Secretary	Elizabeth "Beth" Daly	elizabethdaly2003@gmail.com
Treasurer	George Fenton	gpfenton1974@gmail.com

COMMITTEES

Program	Scott Boyd	sboyd4109@yahoo.com
Membership	David Hamon	blungrey@gmail.com
Heritage	Basil Moncrief, Jr.	red69hoss@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jerre Wilson	David Hamon	Elizabeth “Beth” Daly
George Fenton	Scott Boyd	Paul T. Scott
John "Jack" Farrington	Stephen Fox	Jane Conner
Patricia Carle	Bruce Norton, Ex Officio Mbr	

Website: www.cwrtf.org Email: info@cwrtf.org

-- 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: _____

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	$_____
Corporate:	$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