

2013 WCWRT Newsletters



Williamsburg Civil War

Roundtable

Meeting Place

Williamsburg

Library Theatre

Volume XXXVII Number 5

January 22, 2013

Brian McEnany

"The West Point Class of 1862"

The next meeting is January 22 at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre located at 515 Scotland Street. The guest speaker is Brian McEnany who will present "The West Point Class of 1862." Brian McEnany's lecture will use one of the cadet classes, the Class of 1862, to illustrate what happened at the Academy and the cadets at the outset of the Civil War. During the tumultuous months after Lincoln's election, the cadets were forced to make momentous decisions as eleven states seceded, officers resigned or returned to their regiments and multiple resignations or dismissals became everyday occurrences.

Mr. Brian R. McEnany was born in Cornwall, New York. An Army Brat, he traveled extensively with his family in the US and Japan.

He entered the United States Military Academy with the Class of 1962. After graduation, he served an initial assignment in Germany, followed by a tour in Vietnam as an advisor. In January 1984, after various assignments at battery, battalion, brigade and division level in Germany, Korea, the US, combat service in Vietnam, and multiple tours in the Pentagon as an operations research analyst, he elected to leave the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Military history has always fascinated him and has now become his full-time avocation. He is currently using his skills as an analyst of military operations to write a narrative history of the West Point Class of 1862.

Brian is a member of the Bull Run Civil War Roundtable and has given presentations about this class to numerous civil war groups in Northern Virginia, the History Department at West Point, the Brandy Station Foundation, the Army-Navy Club in DC, a few West Point class luncheons, the US Army's Center for Army Analysis and AUSA's Lemnitzer Lecture series. His article, John Brown's Raid and West Point, was published in the Association of Graduate's Assembly magazine in October 2009 and War comes to West Point was published in North&South magazine (Vol, 12, Nr.5) in December 2010.

Dues are Due: The Roundtable's fiscal year is from September through May. Member dues for the 2012-2013 year are \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a family. Please plan to bring a check to WCWRT with you to our next meeting or mail to our Treasurer, John Hale at 2315 West Island Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

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members will include Ken Sage, Dick Cooper, Norman Cooper, Susan Moorman, Bill Miller, and permanent member, Willard Gilley.

Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **February 26: Peggy Vogtsberger "Battle of Franklin"**
- **March 26: Patrick Schroeder. "Appomattox"**
- **April 23: Frank Ernest**
- **May 28: Eric App "Richmond Food Riots"**

Upcoming Outside Events

January 16, 2013 from 5:30pm-7:30pm - The National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA will host a wine & cheese reception to preview the new "1863" exhibit. Special Lecture with Barnet Schechter, "The Draft Riots and the Gettysburg Campaign: Conspiracy or Coincidence?" Join independent historian Barnet Schechter, author of "The Devil's Own Work: The Civil War Draft Riots and the Fight to Reconstruct America", as he weighs the evidence and provides an in-depth look at the festering racial and class conflicts that produced the deadliest riots in American history. Details

February 16, 2013 - Fourteenth annual Appomattox Court House national historical park and Longwood University free civil war seminar "1863: The Turning Point". Details

April 20, 2013 - Fifth in an annual series -- brings together noted Civil War historians to consider how the Civil War changed Virginia and the nation 150 years ago in the year of the war's turning point, 1863. This event "The American Civil War at Home" is being held at William and Mary Hall. Visit the website at www.virginiacivilwar.org and there is a link for the conference where you can get the information and register.

WEBSITE: Be sure to frequently visit the site for newsletter info, announcements, future and past speakers, and an up to date calendar of events in the Civil War world. It's available anytime you need the info. <http://www.wcwrt.org>. Webmaster is Tom Lamb.



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Volume XXXVII Number 6

February 26, 2013

Peggy Vogtsberger

"Into the Maelstrom:

The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee"

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 26 at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre located at 515 Scotland Street. The guest speaker will be Peggy Vogtsberger. She will discuss "Into the Maelstrom: The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee".

Two months after the fall of Atlanta, the Army of Tennessee under the command of General John Bell Hood marched into Tennessee. Peggy will talk about the genesis of Hood's campaign and the Federal response to it. She will describe the lost opportunity at Spring Hill. On November 30, 1864 Hood's army attacked strong

entrenchments at Franklin, Tennessee. It was a charge comparable to Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg, with more disastrous results. Sam Watkins, Co. H, 1st Tennessee, upon seeing the battlefield the next day, wrote: "It was a grand holocaust of death. Death had held high carnival that night...I was never so horrified and appalled in my life." Peggy will describe in tactical detail the battle and its effects. She will tie it up with a brief summary of the battles near Nashville and the end of Hood's campaign.

Ms. Vogtsberger's work with WCWRT included: former newsletter editor, former member of the board, former vice-president and program chairman. She has also been active as founder of the John Pelham Historical Association and author of *The Dulanys of Welbourne* and *A Family in Mosby's Confederacy* (1995). Peggy currently works at Colonial Williamsburg in Orientation & Admissions.

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Volume XXXVII Number 7

March 26, 2013

Patrick Schroeder

"Myths About Lee's Surrender"

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 26 at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre located at 515 Scotland Street.

The guest speaker will be Patrick Schroeder. Patrick will present "Myths about Lee's Surrender" in which he discusses some of the most interesting aspects from the books he wrote , *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender* and *More Myths About Lee's Surrender*. This talk is about what really happened at Appomattox, separating myth from fact.

Mr. Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA, and was raised in Utica, New York. In the spring of 1990, he graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV. He has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From the summer of 1986-1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote *Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender*, which is currently in its twelfth printing. From 1994-1999, he was employed at Red Hill, the Patrick Henry National Memorial. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty-five Civil War titles. Patrick resides in Lynchburg, VA, and has worked as an independent researcher, author,

historian, and tour guide. He has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park since 2002. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.

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Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **April 23:** Frank Earnest "Major Heros Von Borcke, chief aide to General JEB Stuart"
- **May 28:** Eric App "Richmond Food Riots"

Upcoming Outside Events

April 6, 2013 - 148th anniversary of The Breakthrough at Pamplin Historical Park. Tour and events begin at 5:30am. For details click [here](#)

April 6, 2013 - Mason-Dixon Civil War Round Table's annual Civil War Symposium will be held at the Erickson Alumni Center located on the West Virginia University Evansdale Campus. The Symposium registration cost is \$25.00. Registration includes lunch and breakfast pastries. For details click [here](#)

April 16 - September 29, 2013 -National Civil War Museum spring summer programs announced. For details click [here](#)

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September 14-15, 2013 - Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site will host a two day Civil War Symposium. Sunday will feature guided bus tours of the battlefield, one each led by Ed Bearss and Mark Bradley. Please contact the site at (910) 594-0789 or visit www.fobb.net for details and tickets.

September 28 - October 6, 2013 - The 8th Annual Members' Tour of Gettysburg. Join A. Wilson Greene and a group of the nation's Gettysburg experts to explore the epic story of the Civil War's most famous campaign from its bold inception at Brandy Station to its fateful conclusion on the Maryland shore of the Potomac. Details [here](#)

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April 23, 2013

Frank Earnst

**"Major Heros Von Borcke,
Chief Aide to General JEB Stuart"**

The next meeting is Tuesday, April 23 at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre located at 515 Scotland Street.

The guest speaker will be Frank Earnst. One might call Frank's talk an evening with a Confederate Soldier, Major Heros Von Borcke. He was chief aide to General JEB Stuart. Although a Prussian officer he was no mere observer. He was a fully invested Confederate and was a prolific writer about his exploits. He will take us back to that period of history in the person of Major Heros Von Borcke, chief aide to General JEB Stuart. The audience should let themselves be taken back to the spring of 1863 and this colorful character will bring them up to date on the War thus far.

Frank Earnst, is a historian and member of several historical societies most prominently the Sons of Confederate Veterans. He has held offices in this organization for over 20 years. Serving as his camp's charter chaplain to International Chief of Heritage Defense to his current position as Commander of the Army of Northern Virginia. He was informed of his deep Virginia roots and his Confederate Heritage at an early age by his maternal grandmother. Although born in Norfolk, Virginia most of his ancestors were from the Petersburg, Virginia area.

His ancestors served in all branches including the Navy but most especially the cavalry. Commander Earnest is a retired United States Navy veteran. He now resides in Virginia Beach with his wife, Billie, who is also an ardent historian of this period.

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April 20, 2013 - Arlington House rededication and grand reopening. Join the National Park Service at Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial for a special program rededicating the historic mansion as the nation's

memorial to General Robert E. Lee and celebrating the completion of the interior restoration and the return of the historic furnishings. The program will kick off with a rededication ceremony and ribbon cutting at 10:00 a.m. followed by tours, talks, living history, musket firing, period music and dancing. Details click [here](#)

April 20, 2013 -Clara Barton National Historic Site will present "Emancipation and the 54th Massachusetts." Details click [here](#).

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May 28, 2013

Eric App

**"Richmond Bread Riots and
Virtual 3 Dimensional Tour"**

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 28 at 7PM in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre located at 515 Scotland Street.

The guest speaker will be Eric Douglas App, the Director of Museum Operations at the Museum of the Confederacy. Mr. App will discuss the "Richmond Bread Riots" and present a virtual 3 dimensional tour of the old city of Richmond.

Born and raised east of Richmond, he attended Virginia Tech, where he received his degrees in both history and art. He has worked at the Museum of the Confederacy for 22 of the past 23 years. His present responsibilities, there, are wide-ranging, from restoration and interpretation of the White House of the Confederacy and school programming to visitor services and retail sales, from working with the governing board to hosting VIPs, and from working with the Museum's attorneys, bankers, and insurance to dealing with physical plant issues.

His latest project is a virtual map of Civil War Richmond. Utilizing open source CAD software and a mass of research on every period building on every block, he has been able to recreate much of the old City in a fully-

interactive, near 3-dimensional format. Tonight, Eric is here to talk about the Richmond Bread Riots, and will use his map to help follow the route of the mob as it made its way through the streets.

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