

Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable
2018 Newsletters



*Williamsburg Civil War
Roundtable*

Meeting Place
Williamsburg

Volume XLII Number 1

September 26, 2017

Patrick Falci
“Up Came Hill”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at the Williamsburg Public Library Theatre at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 26, 2017

On September 26, 2017, Patrick Falci a/k/a General A.P. Hill will present “Up Came Hill (A.P. Hill at Sharpsburg)”

At 6:30 in the morning on September 17, 1862, a courier sent by Gen. Robert E. Lee arrived at the headquarters of Major General AP. Hill in Harper's Ferry, VA. A battle had commenced early that morning in Sharpsburg, MD and General Lee needed help. Lee knew he was outnumbered more than 2 to 1 at what would be known as the Battle of Antietam, and that A.P. Hill and his men were the only ones who could help him. In one half-hour, Hill would have his men on the march at the double-quick.

A.P. Hill, wearing his red battle shirt—which he called his hunting shirt—and his Light Division (so-called because he trained it for speed) knew that the fate of the Army of Northern Virginia was in their hands. They knew they would be going against George McClellan and the strong Army of the Potomac, and that the war could be decided by the outcome of this battle.

Hill had so much confidence in his division (5000 men on the march) that he decided to take a longer route of 17 miles to Sharpsburg instead of the more direct 12-mile route. He knew the speed and endurance of the men would make up for the 5 extra miles, and he didn't want an engagement with reported enemy troops in the area. With the point of his sword, he pushed his men forward. He would ride up and down the line through clouds of dust to inspire them during their breathless pace. After so many miles, some of the men could not keep up. They were suffering from exhaustion, dehydration and even a few heart attacks. At one point, while crossing the Potomac at Boteler's Ford, Hill lost 500 men. Yet, A.P. Hill would not stop. Getting closer and closer to Sharpsburg, he could hear the sound of the guns. But would he make it in time to save General Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia?

After seven hours of fighting, Lee would see a new column of soldiers approaching. All day long, his Army had been pushed back through the cornfield, the sunken road and the lower bridge, and now it looked as though the end had come. "What flags do you see?" Lee asked his aide. "They are flying the Virginia and Confederate flags!" A joyful if reserved Lee exclaimed, "It is A.P. Hill, up from Harper's Ferry!"

A.P. Hill and his Light Division made it to the right place at the right time to save Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. Hill started out with 5000 men at Harper's Ferry, arrived at Sharpsburg with 3000, and utilized 2000 men to fight the Yankees. But that would be enough. As he would say in his after-battle report, "With a yell of defiance, my troops were not in a moment too soon."

To his dying day, Robert E. Lee never forgot September 17th, 1862 and the timely arrival of A.P. Hill. On his deathbed, Lee is reported to have uttered among his last words: "Tell A.P. Hill he must come up," remembering with his last breath, the heroic rescue of his Army by General Hill at Sharpsburg.

For 25 years, Patrick Falci has been the face of General Ambrose Powell Hill. Before that, he spent 15 years as a reenactor with the 14th Tennessee— Archer's Brigade, Hill's Light Division. He created the role of General Hill in the movie Gettysburg and was the historical advisor to director Ron Maxwell, as well as bestselling author, Jeff Shaara. Amongst his many achievements, he served as the 3-time

president of the Civil War Round Table of New York and has been a guest speaker all over the country for his knowledge on the Civil War

Last Month

At the May meeting Christopher L. Kolakowski presented "The Battle of Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863. The presentation explored the battle, its context, and its legacy. The battle was the climax of the various Battles for Chattanooga. A great Union strategic victory, it set the stage for the 1864 thrust to Atlanta. It also was the foundation of the MacArthur military dynasty, because of the heroism of 18-year-old Arthur MacArthur of the 24th Wisconsin.

Christopher L. Kolakowski was born and raised in Fredericksburg, Va. He received his BA in History and Mass Communications from Emory & Henry College, and his MA in Public History from the State University of New York at Albany

Chris has spent his career interpreting and preserving American military history with the National Park Service, New York State government, the Rensselaer County (NY) Historical Society, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Kentucky State Parks, and the U.S. Army. He has written and spoken on various aspects of military history from 1775 to the present. He has published two books with the History Press: *The Civil War at Perryville: Battling For the Bluegrass* and *The Stones River and Tullahoma Campaign: This Army Does Not Retreat*. In September 2016, the U.S. Army published his volume on the 1862 Virginia Campaigns as part of its sesquicentennial series on the Civil War. He is a contributor to the Emerging Civil War Blog, and his study of the 1941-42 Philippine Campaign titled *Last Stand on Bataan* is was released by McFarland in late February 2016.

Chris came to Norfolk having served as Director of the General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership in Fort Knox, KY from 2009 to 2013. He became the MacArthur Memorial Director on September 16, 2013.

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- **October 24, 2017** - Dennis Frye – “Did McClellan out-think Lee during the first Confederate invasion?”
- **November 29, 2017** – Eric Buckland – “John S. Mosby – The Perfect Man in the Perfect Place”
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Upcoming Outside Events

- **September 20, 2017** - The MacArthur Memorial will host the second in this year’s fall film series. Titled HONOR AND SACRIFICE, it tells the story of Roy Matsumoto, a Japanese-American soldier in Merrill’s Marauders. [details](#)
- **September and December 2017** - Prince William County 2017 History Bus Tours [details](#)
- **September – May, 2018** - The Return of History Happy Hours at the American Civil War Museum. For details and other museum events click [here](#).
- **Oct. 7, 2017** - Battle of Smithfield tour at Isle of Wight Museum [details](#)
- **October 31, 2017** - William C. Davis will be speaking at Christopher Newport University , at 3 PM in the Gaines Theater at the Freeman Center. The title of his talk is: “*The General in Love: The Civil War*”

Romance of Gabriel and Nannie Wharton". The event is free and open to the public.

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October 24, 2017

Dennis Frye
**“Did McClellan out-think Lee During
The First Confederate Invasion?”**

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at the Williamsburg Public Library Theatre at 7 PM on Tuesday, October 24, 2017

On October 24, 2017, Dennis Frye will present “Did McClellan out-think Lee during the first Confederate invasion?”

We often laugh when we think of George McClellan. We enjoy making McClellan the Union's whipping boy. McClellan, himself, brings little sympathy to his cause. Full of bravado, often arrogant, and sometimes insubordinate, McClellan is the general we like to dislike. We chuckle when he claimed, following the first invasion of the North, that it was the second time he had saved the North.

Yet when Robert E. Lee was asked after the war who was the best Union general he faced, he responded with George McClellan.

Was McClellan as incompetent and ineffective as history has branded him? Discover some answers as we ask: "Did McClellan out-think Lee during the 1st invasion?"

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Writer, lecturer, guide, and preservationist, Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian. Dennis has numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, C-SPAN, Fox News, A&E, and Voice of America as a guest historian. He helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation's leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust's highest honor - the Shelby Foote Award. Dennis also earned the prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for his lifetime achievements in the Civil War community. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 98 articles and nine books. *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* received the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands; and *September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril*, was awarded the 2012 Laney Book Prize for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military and political history of the war. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America's Civil War*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *North and South Magazine*, and *Hallowed Ground*, and as a guest contributor to the *Washington Post*. Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.

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- **Oct. 7, 2017** - Battle of Smithfield tour at Isle of Wight Museum [details](#)
- **October 21, 2017** - The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is proud to partner with the MacArthur Memorial for a 1942 symposium at 8 a.m. in the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. [details](#)
- **October 31, 2017** - William C. Davis will be speaking at Christopher Newport University , at 3 PM in the Gaines Theater at the Freeman Center. The title of his talk is: *“The General in Love: The Civil War Romance of Gabriel and Nannie Wharton”*. The event is free and open to the public.

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Volume XLII Number 3

November 28, 2017

Eric Buckland
**“John S. Mosby – The Perfect Man
in the Perfect Place”**

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at the Williamsburg Public Library Theatre at 7 PM on Tuesday, November 28, 2017

On November 28, 2017, Eric Buckland will present “John S. Mosby – The Perfect Man in the Perfect Place”.

Colonel John Singleton Mosby, Commanding Officer of the 43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry (Mosby’s Rangers) - remains a sterling example of the quintessential unconventional warfare warrior and leader. The tactics, techniques and procedures he used during the War Between the States from January 1863 to April 1865 are still studied today by United States Army Special Forces and Rangers and by the United States Marine Corps. Mosby’s personal courage, intelligence, innovativeness, audacity and innate understanding of how to plan, conduct and command irregular operations made him a very painful and persistent thorn in the side of Union forces arrayed against him and a celebrated hero in the South.

However, even strong personal attributes and exceptional ability need to be coupled with good fortune and circumstances in order to achieve the type of sustained success enjoyed by Mosby and his Rangers. "John S. Mosby: The Perfect Man in the Perfect Place" will offer superb insight into how John Mosby was able to utilize and adapt his strengths and abilities to successfully fulfill his mission requirements, confront the enemy threat, use the operational area's terrain to his benefit, recruit men to his unit and garner the support and loyalty of the local population.

Eric Buckland's interest in Mosby's Rangers began when he was a young boy and increased during his 22-year military career. Most of that time - he retired from the Army as a LTC - was spent in Special Forces. Eric had multiple deployments to Panama, Honduras and El Salvador in the 1980's and believes that military experience provides a unique understanding of Mosby's Rangers.

Eric's first book, *Mosby's Keydet Rangers*, was written as a tribute to both the Mosby Rangers who attended the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and his youngest son, who was then a "Rat" (Freshman) at VMI. On June 6th, 2011, it was his distinct honor and privilege to have been presented the prestigious United Daughters of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal for writing *Mosby's Keydet Rangers*.

While working on *Mosby's Keydet Rangers*, Eric constantly found bits and pieces of information about other Rangers (not affiliated with VMI) and all of those became the genesis for his next books – the *Mosby Men* series. On October 3, 2013, Eric received a second award of the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal for the first three books in the *Mosby Men* series.

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December 19, 2017

Brian Steel Wills
**“Gone With The Glory:
The Civil War in Cinema”**

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On December 19, 2017, Brian Steel Wills will present “Gone with the glory: The Civil War in Cinema”.

History comes at us in many fashions. Cinema has offered its own version of the Civil War, often reflecting the times in which films appear and the expectations that audiences of those periods bring with them. Reality is less well served, but the characters and stories that emerge are nevertheless indelible parts of our collective culture and experience. When it comes to popular presentations of the American Civil War, few phrases evoke images of that conflict as powerful as *Gone with the Wind*, although that epic motion picture had more to do with the adventures of a young Southern woman than depictions of war-related themes. This difficulty in melding stories with facts has been the dilemma of film regarding historical subjects, with Hollywood frequently turning its focus first to entertainment values and then to the historical foundation or framework. Nevertheless, from the silent era to the present day, motion pictures

have provided one means by which people have connected with their past. In the process a rich mosaic of figures has emerged for movie audiences that, in some instances, have become iconic, and the sweep and grandeur of the subject matter has proven particularly well-suited to the big screen of the cinema. In more recent years, subjects have broadened to include other aspects, such as the famed 54th Massachusetts in *Glory*, the smaller-scale drama in backcountry Kentucky of *Pharoah's Army*, or the struggle for passage of the 13th Amendment in *Lincoln*. But, in each instance, the Civil War in cinema has provided at least the introductory platform for learning more about the era's issues, events and personalities.

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War. His most recent publications are [The River was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow](#) (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014), [Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory](#) (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2013) and [George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel](#) (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2012), which was the recipient of the 2013 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award for the best book on a Civil War topic for the year 2012 presented by the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta. His latest work is [Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War](#) (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2017), just out.

His biography of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, [A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest](#) is currently in reprint as [The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest](#) (University Press of Kansas). This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

Dr. Wills also authored, [The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia](#), released in October, 2001, and [No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise](#), (2004), both by the University Press of Virginia. [Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema](#) appeared in 2006 with Rowman and Littlefield. An updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., [Civil War Sites in Virginia](#) (Virginia) came out in 2011.

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He is descended from Charles Hasker, a Confederate officer who saw service on the CSS Virginia and the submarine Hunley before its final encounter with USS Housatonic.

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- **December 16 & 17, 2017** - Christmas at Ellwood Manor [details](#)

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