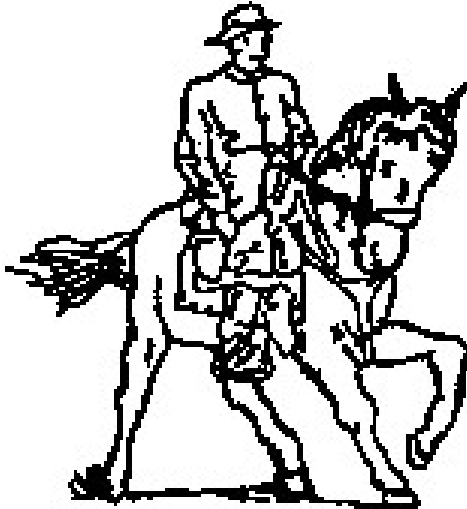


Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable
2022 Newsletter



Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable

Meeting Place

**Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA**

Volume LII Number 1

September 28, 2021

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 7 PM**

Chris Mackowski “The Battle of Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle”

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, Chris Mackowski will present: “The Battle of Spotsylvania’s Bloody Angle”. For twenty-two straight hours, in torrential downpours, up to their knees in mud and blood, Federals and Confederates slugged it out in the most intense sustained hand-to-hand combat of the war. A panoply of horror, one soldier called it. A Saturnalia of blood. Hell’s Half-Acre. The slaughter pen of Spotsylvania. Most remember it simply as the Bloody Angle.

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief and co-founder of Emerging Civil War. He is the series editor of the award-winning [Emerging Civil War Series](#), published by Savas Beatie, and the “Engaging the Civil War” Series, published in partnership with Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable Newsletter

Southern Illinois University Press. Chris is a writing professor in the Jandoli School of Communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, where he also serves as associate dean for undergraduate programs. Chris is also historian-in-residence at [Stevenson Ridge](#), a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has also worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris has authored or co-authored a dozen books on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Chris serves on the board of directors for the [Central Virginia Battlefields Trust](#) and the advisory board of the [Civil War Roundtable Congress](#).

For a listing of his publications, click [here](#).

Last Meeting

On Tuesday, May 25, 2021, Matt Atkinson presented "The Battle of Gettysburg – A Simple Overview". The name Gettysburg is synonymous with American History. Three days of battle that brought the country from the brink of destruction to a "new birth of freedom" at a cost of 51,000 casualties.

Today, despite Gettysburg being one of the most studied battles in the world, many Americans do not even have a simple understanding of the battle. If you are one of those people, this program is for you.

Dues for September 2021-May 2022 are due now. Please complete registration form and mail to Bill Miller or bring to September meeting.

2021-2022 Officers of WCWRT:

President: Bill Miller Vice-President: Lee Underwood
Secretary: Gene Danko Treasurer:

The Executive Committee consists of the elected officers, the immediate past president and other members appointed by the incoming president. Those members include Debbie Bedosti, Tom Lamb, and Teresa Teopke.

Upcoming Meetings and Speakers

- **Wednesday, October 26, 2021** – Doug Crenshaw – “Fort Harrison”
- **Tuesday, November 23, 2021** - Dr. Charles Ross - “Breaking the Blockade: The Bahamas during the Civil War”
- **Tuesday, December 21, 2021** - John Fox III - “The Confederate Alamo – Fort Gregg”
- **Tuesday, January 25, 2022** -Kevin Pawlak - “In the Wake of Antietam – The Loudon Valley Campaign of 1862”
- **Tuesday, February 22, 2022** - Dr. Jonathan White: “A House Built By Slaves: African American Visitors To The Lincoln White House”
- **Tuesday, March 22, 2022** - Shelly Liebler “Fort Pocahontus – Action at Wilson’s Wharf”
- **Wednesday, April 13, 2022** - Dr. Curt Fields & Thomas Jessee, portraying General Ulysses S. Grant & General Robert E. Lee, respectively: “Appomattox – The Last Forty-Eight Hours”
- **Tuesday, May 24, 2022** - Dr. Jerry Wooten - "Johnsonville"

Upcoming Outside Events

Visit the **Williamsburg Battlefield Association**

(<http://www.williamsburgbattlefieldassociation.org/>)

(<https://www.facebook.com/WilliamsburgBattlefieldAssociation>)

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.wcwr.org>.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote discussion and study of the Civil War and to further stimulate interest in all aspects and phases of the Civil War period.



*Williamsburg Civil War
Roundtable*

Meeting Place

**Williamsburg Library Theatre
515 Scotland Street
Williamsburg, VA**

Volume LII Number 2

October 26, 2021

**MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE
Wednesday, October 26, 2021 at 6:30 PM**

**Doug Crenshaw
Fort Harrison and
“Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin’s Farm”**

Join us for the next meeting of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable at **6:30 PM** on **Wednesday**, October 26, 2021, at the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre. The presentation will also be carried via Zoom. Details will follow in the meeting announcement later this month.

Doug Crenshaw will present “Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin’s Farm”.

From mid-July of 1864 until April 1865, Union and Confederate Armies in Virginia were locked down in static siege-like actions which were primarily focused upon the areas around Petersburg.

The Confederate defenses that extended north of the James River and east of Richmond, the so-called “Henrico Front”, seems to have

been unfairly relegated as a “backwater” to the actions that were taking place south of the Appomattox River. However, the soldiers, both Rebel and Yank, who were hunkered down and fighting and dying in those defenses may have taken exception to that characterization.

In late September 1864, Ben Butler took his Army of the James across that river to launch a surprise attack and capture Richmond. The attack came close to success... but why did it fail?

Please join us in person or via Zoom as Doug Crenshaw will look at the events and reasons for the failed attack at Chaffin's Farm, and its long-term consequences.

Doug Crenshaw studied history at Randolph-Macon College and the University of Richmond. A volunteer for the Richmond National Battlefield Park, he is a Board member of the Richmond Battlefield Association, president of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable, and is a speaker, presenter and tour leader. His book, Fort Harrison and The Battle of Chaffin's Farm, was nominated in the nonfiction category for a Library of Virginia Literary award. Doug has also written The Battle of Glendale: Robert E. Lee's Lost Opportunity, and Richmond Shall not be Given Up! a survey and tour of the Seven Days campaign, which was a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation Distinguished writing award. Doug has just completed a guidebook on Civil War Richmond with Bert Dunkerly, a book on the Peninsula Campaign with Drew Gruber, and is also working on a book about the Seven Days.

Last Month

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