



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
September 2021, Volume 18, Issue 9

Speaker: Peter Carmichael
Topic: The War for the Common Soldier
When: Monday September 13, 2021
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

Please make dinner reservations through John Sapanara via email rappcwevents21@gmail.com or by phone 540-479-1299. He will contact you with confirmation. Please reserve by the Thursday before the Monday dinner meeting date. If you wish to be placed on the "permanent reservation" list, please advise John. Members on this list do not need to make reservations every month - their attendance is assumed unless they cancel beforehand. Member dinner price is **\$30**. This price also applies to non-member attendees who join at the meeting, or to guests invited by members. Non-member dinner price is \$35.

“SEVEN DAYS” BUS TRIP ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2021

Sign up for our bus trip to sites associated with the Seven Days Battles. Cost is \$90 for members and guests until October 1. Cost includes bus transportation to five sites, lunch, site fees and guided tours throughout the day. Sign up now through John Sapanara via email to rappcwevents21@gmail.com or by phone 540-479-1299

“Peter Carmichael: The War for the Common Soldier”

Peter S. Carmichael received his Ph.D. in History from Penn State University in 1996. His academic interests include 19th-century US history, Civil War and Reconstruction, southern history, public history and cultural history. Carmichael's most recent book, *The War for the Common Soldier*, was published by University of North Carolina Press in November 2018 as part of the Littlefield History of the Civil War Era series. The culmination of nearly ten years' work, this cultural history of soldiering in Civil War armies explores how soldiers endured the brutal and unpredictable existence of army life during the war years, drawing heavily on close examination of the letters and records left behind by individual soldiers from both the North and the South.

His previous books include *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion* (UNC, 2005) and *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram* (Virginia, 1995). In addition to his books, he has also published a number of articles for both scholarly and popular journals, and he speaks frequently to general and scholarly audiences. Carmichael has recently appeared on the PBS Robert E. Lee documentary for the American Experience series and on the popular TV show “Who Do You Think You Are.” [View Professor Carmichael's talks on C-SPAN.](#)

After completing his doctorate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor Carmichael went on to teach at Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and West Virginia University, before coming to Gettysburg College, where he is the Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies.

In addition to holding seasonal interpretive positions at several National Park Service sites, Carmichael served as Gettysburg National Military Park's first Scholar-in-Residence in 1999, and has developed a lasting relationship with the NPS. In addition to overseeing multiple interpretive workshops for National Park Service staff, he directed a 2010 seminar at Gettysburg NMP to discuss new interpretive approaches to the Civil

War sesquicentennial and co-directed (with Jill Oglive Titus) the joint GC/GNMP conference, *The Future of Civil War History: Looking Beyond the 150th* in 2013.

How did Civil War soldiers endure the brutal and unpredictable existence of army life during the conflict? This question is at the heart of Peter S. Carmichael's sweeping new study of men at war. Based on close examination of the letters and records left behind by individual soldiers from both the North and the South, Carmichael explores the totality of the Civil War experience--the marching, the fighting, the boredom, the idealism, the exhaustion, the punishments, and the frustrations of being away from families who often faced their own dire circumstances. Carmichael focuses not on *what* soldiers thought but rather *how* they thought. In doing so, he reveals how, to the shock of most men, well-established notions of duty or disobedience, morality or immorality, loyalty or disloyalty, and bravery or cowardice were blurred by war.

Digging deeply into his soldiers' writing, Carmichael resists the idea that there was "a common soldier" but looks into their own words to find common threads in soldiers' experiences and ways of understanding what was happening around them. In the end, he argues that a pragmatic philosophy of soldiering emerged, guiding members of the rank and file as they struggled to live with the contradictory elements of their violent and volatile world. Soldiering in the Civil War, as Carmichael argues, was never a state of being but a process of becoming.

“The Third United States Infantry in the Civil War”

by Darrell Cochran

A Review of the August 2021 Program by Greg Mertz

When our speaker, Darrell Cochran, pointed out that the 3rd United States Infantry regiment was the “first army organization directed by Congress in 1784,” many in the audience may have wondered as I did; why didn’t that distinction belong to the 1st United States Infantry? Cochran explained that the 3rd U.S. regiment of the Civil War era *was originally* called the 1st U.S. when it was first established. But during a reorganization at the end of the War of 1812, the eight regiments in the army were redesignated based upon the seniority of the colonels commanding them. A different unit had the most senior colonel and was so entitled to be named the “first” U.S. and the unit

that had been the first, happened to have the “third” ranking colonel, and thus was so called the 3rd U.S. Infantry from then on.

The regiment had an inauspicious start to its Civil War service. As part of the pre-war standing army the 3rd U.S. was stationed in Texas, which had already joined the Confederacy before the Civil War began. The various companies of the regiment were divided among several posts in Texas, with the most inopportune group being those who were those assigned to Fort McIntosh. While most of the companies of the 3rd U.S. had departed Texas prior to the firing on Fort Sumter, three companies of the regiment from Fort McIntosh were on the gulf coast awaiting a boat to pick them up when the war began. Those members of the 3rd U.S. were captured by Confederate forces, paroled, and stationed at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania until properly exchanged.

The 3rd U.S. also holds an unusual distinction – the last soldiers to be legally flogged as a punishment were members of the regiment. In the summer of 1861, two of its soldiers were flogged and discharged for desertion, with one of them also branded with a “W” for “worthlessness.” Flogging as an act of military discipline was outlawed by Congress in August of 1861 – shortly after these two were so punished. So, the last two U.S. soldiers ever to be flogged were in the 3rd U.S.

After tracing the service of the 3rd U.S., it became noticeable that the regiment missed being engaged in many of the major battles in the east. Cochran noted a significant difference in the manner in which the western armies utilized the “regulars” assigned to their armies compared with the practices of the eastern armies. The western armies often ordered the United States regulars into battles and they were typically hotly engaged. The regulars in the Army of the Potomac were frequently held in reserve, placed on the skirmish line, or assigned to guard rear echelon areas and consequently were not heavily engaged in most of the large battles.

Among the regiment’s service in major battles, the 3rd U.S. was on the July 21, 1861 First Bull Run battlefield. As part of the Union flanking maneuver, they were called upon to support Ambrose Burnside’s over-extended line on Matthews Hill. In thirty minutes of combat, the 3rd U.S. destroyed two Confederate regiments. Following an accepted tactical response to a cavalry attack by Confederate J.E.B. Stuart, the regiment formed a hollow

square on Henry Hill. The formation had the disadvantage of being a tempting artillery target, and the square broke up when it attracted fire from Confederate gunners.

The next assignment for the regiment was to deal with a mutiny by the 79th New York on August 14, 1861. The 3rd U.S. gave the 79th New York one minute to fall into line before they would open fire on the recalcitrant soldiers. The New Yorkers formed up thus avoiding the threat of gunfire upon them and twenty leaders of the revolt were courts-martialed and sent to prison in Fort Jefferson at Dry Tortugas, Florida.

The following summer, the regiment accompanied McClellan's movement toward Richmond up the Peninsula and wound up on the right flank of the Union line for the June 27, 1862 battle at Gaines Mill. As the Confederates tried to turn that flank, other regular army units utilized four companies of the 3rd U.S. as a rallying point. The position held until Confederates flanked the other end of the Union line.

The 3rd U.S. found itself back on Henry Hill during the battle of Second Bull Run. This was one of the major battles in which the regiment did not play a leading role, though its assignment was very important. On August 30, 1862, during the closing phase of the fight, the 3rd U.S. was called upon to cover the retreat.

On May 1, 1863 the regiment had the frustrating experience of waiting for orders to advance only to be ordered to retreat shortly after making contact with the enemy.

Gettysburg proved to be both a physically demanding and a bloody battle for the unit. After marching all night on July 1-2, 1863 from Union Mills, Maryland to Culp's Hill on the Union right, the regiment was desperately needed on the Union left. The sleepless 3rd U.S. moved at the double-quick, covering two miles in 40 minutes to Gettysburg's Wheatfield. In just one hour of fighting the 3rd U.S. lost 25% of its strength.

The unit was once again called to quell a disturbance in the aftermath of Gettysburg, being sent to New York City where draft riots had occurred. While the rioting was for the most part over by the time the 3rd U.S. arrived, additional draft calls were coming up, and the regiment remained there to keep the peace and discourage further violence.

The regiment was on the skirmish line during the November 7, 1863 battle at Rappahannock Station, losing one man wounded. It was present, once again being in a supporting role, at Mine Run later that month and into December, but that was its last action. For the last year of the war, the regiment was in New York harbor, or was assigned to Washington, or was sent to City Point, Virginia to guard Meade's headquarters until the end of the war.

When the Grand Review in Washington was held on May 23, 1865, the cavalry initiated the parade, but then the 3rd U.S. lead all of the infantry as the headquarters guard. Their first post-Civil War field assignment was at Fort Larned, Kansas in the fall of 1865.

Excerpts from the "The Confederate Veteran" February 1893

The following is drawn from an article titled "Confederate at the Tomb of Grant." It is a good example of the reconciliatory attitude promoted by Civil War veterans of both sides in the late nineteenth century.

"The principal oration at the tomb of Grant last memorial day was delivered by Col. Charles Marshall, who was chief of staff to General Lee... Col. Marshall said that both the North and the South rejoice that the voyage across a tempestuous sea of blood and tears is over...he said 'No such peace as our peace ever followed immediately upon such a war as our war. The exhausted South was completely at the mercy of the victorious North, and yet the sound of the last gun had scarcely died away when, not only peace, but peace and good will were re-established, and the victors and the vanquished took up the work of repairing the damages of war, and advancing the the common welfare of the whole country..."

Colonel Marshall lauded General Grant as follows:

"Great as were his achievements in war, I think his crowning glory was that of a peacemaker, and that to him belongs the blessing promised to peacemakers."

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG SCHEDULE

Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg holds monthly meetings (usually the fourth Wednesday) at the Jepson Alumni Center at University of Mary Washington. Further details are available on their website at www.cwrtaf.org. Here is their schedule for the next three months:

September 22 - Marines at 1st Manassas, Bruce "Doc" Norton and MSG Phillip Gibbons

October 27 - Old Alleghany: The Life and Wars of General Edward Johnson, Greg Clemmer

November 17 - The Generalship of Lee and Grant in the Overland Campaign, Gordon Rhea

Assessing the Enemy: James Longstreet and John Pope at Second Bull Run By Cecily Nelson Zander

We are currently within the 159th anniversary of The Battle of Second Manassas. During the 2021 Emerging Civil War Symposium, Generals John Pope and Fitz-John Porter were examined. How did the soldier's examine each other though?

Cecily Nelson Zander's article from Emerging Civil War discusses General James Longstreet's assessment of Pope at this battle. Pope, largely criticized, and Longstreet whom launched one of the most destructive flank attacks on this battlefield, are the cornerstone of her article. West Point classmates and enemies on the field, Zander, looks deeper into how these men saw one another.

<https://emergingcivilwar.com/2020/08/29/assessing-the-enemy-james-longstreet-and-john-pope-at-second-bull-run/>

Who We Are

The Drum and Bugle Newsletter is published monthly by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg VA 22404. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$35 for individuals and \$45 for families. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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