



THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

February 2018, Volume 15, Issue 2

Speaker: Gil Gibson
Topic: "The Confederate Marine Corps"
When: Monday, February 12, 2018
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 p.m.

Abstract on Gil Gibson, our Scheduled Speaker for February 12, 2018

Gil's presentation will be an examination of the Confederate States Marine Corps including its establishment, uniforms, training, and major engagements. Personnel issues will include the CSA Marines' strength and a look at those officers and enlisted men of the USMC who "went south."

Chaplain Gil Gibson, USN(Ret) is a Vietnam veteran where he served with US Navy Seabees. After completing college, he studied at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He was commissioned a chaplain in 1975 and served in assignments afloat and with US Marines until his retirement in 1999. Chaplain Gibson's ancestors include a Sailor in the Pennsylvania Navy during the Revolutionary War and two who served in the Army of Northern Virginia. He now serves as Pastor, Aldie Presbyterian Church and as a docent at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Ongoing Reminder

Please contact Bob Jones to order your dinner in advance or to confirm your dinner reservation. Please call Bob Jones @ 540-399-1702 or send him your e-mail at cwrtdinner@yahoo.com

Your RVCWRT Membership is Due

It is now the beginning of 2018 and it's time that we all re-new our RVCWRT membership. You are welcome to pay your 2018 dues when you check-in at the front table at our upcoming January Dinner Meeting.

As a reminder, 2018 dues are:

\$45.00 for a family membership

\$35.00 for an individual membership

\$7.50 for a student membership

The RVCWRT 2018 Candidates

Elections will be held at our February meeting to elect members of our Executive Committee. The candidates are:

President/Dinner Meetings	Bob Jones
Vice President/Programs	John Sapanara
Secretary	Melanie Jordan
Treasurer	Bob Pfile
Asst. Treasurer	Ben Keller
Scribe	Greg Mertz
Member-at-Large	Barbara Stafford
Member-at-Large	Robin Donato
Member-at-Large	John Griffiths

Weather Policy for RVCWRT
(Reminder To Our Membership)

By Jim Smithfield

We do, of course, have the potential for bad weather during coming winter months. Therefore, if due to inclement weather, you are concerned about attending our RVCWRT dinner, you'll need to check to see if our dinner is still scheduled by calling Bob Jones at 540-399-1702. You may also call Brock's Restaurant 4:00 p.m. at 540-370-1820.

A determination of the number of dinner reservations is required by Brock's and these reservations must be communicated to Brock's Restaurant no later than 4:00 p.m. on the day of our dinner. After 4:00 p.m. the Roundtable is committed to paying for our the reported number of guests. If you should decide that you do not want to travel to the dinner due to inclement weather and you need to cancel your reservation(s), please call Bob Jones NLT 4 p.m. or Brock's Restaurant after 4:00 p.m. on that day. Please, do not just leave a message on an answering machine, since this may not be checked prior to our scheduled dinner. Also, remember if you have invited guests, please make sure that they are aware of this requirement for cancellation. Note: If however, you do not cancel by 4:00 p.m., we must then bill you, and your guests for payment of any un-cancelled reservations.

RVCWRT 2018 Meeting Date and Topics

Note: To access our meeting dates and topics at any time, go to www.rvcwrt.org and click the Calendar button

February 12	Gil Gibson	The Confederate Marine Corps
March 12	Carolyn Elstner	Burying the Dead - J. Horace Lacy and the Founding of the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery
April 9	Joseph Rose	Grant Under Fire - An Expose' of Generalship and Character in the American Civil War
May 14	Tom Perry	Brothers in Arms - J.E.B. Stuart and his Brothers
June 11	Gary Castellino	Whatever Happened to Pemberton? The Life and Times of John C.
July 9	Ed Bearss	Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Fort Pillow
August 13	Richard Lewis	Cloaked in a Mystery - Confederate Generals and Their Uniforms

September 10	Peter Maugle	Medal of Honor Stories from Area Battlefields
October 8	Daniel Davis	George Crook and the Battle of Fisher's Hill
November 12	Bruce Venter	Custer vs. Kilpatrick in 1863
December 10	Michelle Hamilton	I Would Still Be Drowned in Tears - Spiritualism in the Lincoln White House



The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg

By Bob Jones

As a courtesy, the RVCWRT provides as a regular feature each month, the ongoing scheduled speakers for the CWRTF's 2018 Program Year. The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except for one meeting held on the third Wednesday of June 2018). Dinner Meetings are held at the UMW's Jepson Center located at 1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA, dinner cost is \$32.00 per person. Advance reservations should be made by telephoning 540-361-2105.

CWRTF's Scheduled Speakers for the 2018 Program Year

January 24	James R. "Rusty" Neal	"Civil War Prisoners of War"
February 28	Clint Van Zandt	"Ten Year Old Gilbert Van Zandt - Youngest Soldier in the Civil War"
March 28	Pamela Grainger Tilson	"Order No. 11 and Bleeding Missouri: The Legacy of Concentrating Civilians"
April 25	Bruce Venter	"Kill Jeff Davis and the Dahlgren – Kilpatrick Raid"
May 23	Rob Orrison/Bill Backus	"War on the Potomac"
June 20	Ryan Quint, NPS	"The Battle of Portland Harbor"

Untold Stories of a Search for Freedom

"Secret Codes, A Chatham Slave, and the Reverend Turner – Moments in Black History"

"Witness" three untold stories of African Americans during and after the Civil War as they searched for freedom and civil rights. Join in commemorating Black History Month by participating in a living history event presenting three different vignettes at three historic churches in downtown Fredericksburg. These scenes from the lives of enslaved persons as well as new freedmen during the Civil War era will take place on Friday, February 9, from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Tours start at the Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, at 308 Hanover Street, in Fredericksburg. Visitors will find parking behind the church in the church parking lot on Charlotte Street, as well as, any available on street parking. Please use the entrance on the Charlotte Street side of the church, which is where all tours will originate.

Where: Fredericksburg United Methodist Church,

308 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Contact: Kim Harmon, 217-299-1102 or Kimrharmon@excite.com

Event Date: Friday, February 9, 2018

Event Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. contact Kim Harmon for specific tour times.

Cost: Suggested donation of \$5.00 per person



Civil War Music
By Dan Augustine

By 1860, upwards of 20,000 pianos (aka pianofortes) were being sold in the United States each year. This was with a total free population of only 31,000,000. Some sold for as little as \$300.

During the period leading up to the Civil War, most sheet music consisted of imported compositions. European music, especially Italian operas, was very popular and could be copied and sold in the U.S. without the payment of royalties. International copyright laws did not come into being until the turn of the century. By the 1840's so-called "parlor songs" composed by writers like Henry Russell of England and Stephan Foster became popular because they had simple melodies which were easy to play on the piano and easy to sing. When the Civil War erupted, the sheet music industry was a well-oiled machine, and was ready: a vast number of composers were poised to crank out songs with lightning speed. For example, George F. Root's "The First Gun Is Fired, May God Protect the Right!" was on sale in stores on April 15, 1861; just 3 days after the Confederates fired upon Fort Sumter.

THE PUBLIC DEMANDED WAR SONGS!!

Patriotism and commerce were brought together. The industry was ready to give the public what it wanted. Patriotic music made people feel good, and when the people felt good, the sheet music industry made money.

In this simple age, war songs generally fell into the following topics: Notable by their absence are any anti-war, anti-government, or anti-anything (except the enemy) songs. Although there were some very strong anti-war and anti-Lincoln feelings, people did not sing about these things.

Patriotic Songs

It has been said that this type of song was more chauvinistic than it was patriotic. If patriotism can be defined as a "disinterested self-sacrificing concern for the well-being of one's country", these songs symbolized blind enthusiasm for one side and hysterical hatred for the other.

Music borrowing was accepted and commonly practiced. Root's "Battle Cry of Freedom" is the ONLY Civil War patriotic song that contained both fresh words and fresh music.

On the other hand, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was typical. It had previously been sung as "John Brown's Body" to a Sunday school tune.

Soldier's Life

Parlor music gave the civilians a view of the soldier's life both in and out of battle. Marching songs full of masculine fellowship were common.

"Marching through Georgia" depicted a "sunnier camaraderie" as Sherman made his march to the sea. To this day, most Southerners despise this song because it is a reminder of Northern destruction of the South.

"Just Before the Battle Mother", as sappy as it is, inspired a sequel: "Just After the Battle".

"Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" was an expression of sorrow for something now in the past. The song starts out singing about "tenting" on the old camp ground, and ends with a stanza about "dying" on the old camp ground.

Next Month: Battlefield Deaths, The Home Scene. Emancipation, and Civil War Music Today

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. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are \$35.00 for an individual, \$45.00 for families, and only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

President/Dinner Meeting:	Bob Jones	Membership:	Ryan Quint
Vice President:	John Sapanara	Research/Historian:	Joyce Darr
Secretary:	Ben Keller	Member at Large:	Robin Donato
Treasurer:	Bob Pfile	Member at Large:	John Griffiths
Assistant Treasurer:	Barbara Stafford	Member at Large:	Melanie Jordan
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Webmaster:	Dan Augustine	Past President:	Marc Thompson

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