



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter
July 2020, Volume 17, Issue 7

Speaker:

Topic:

When:

Location: Brock's Riverside Grill

Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting
Begins 7:30 p.m.

“July Meeting Cancelled”

Our July meeting has been cancelled. We are working with Brock's to resume dinner meetings, with appropriate safety and social distancing protocols, later this summer. RVCWRT is sponsoring a National Park Service intern this year and hopes to award its annual \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving intern in September. Our Vice President and Program Chairman, Paul Stier, is lining

up some great speakers for 2021. The support of all our members during this difficult and unusual time is greatly appreciated.

"Last Person Receiving a Civil War Pension Passes Away"

Here is an interesting note from the Society for Women and the Civil War: According to recent reporting by the Wall Street Journal, Irene Triplett, the last person receiving a federal pension from the Civil War, died at the age of 90 on May 31, 2020 in North Carolina. Her father, Mose Triplett, originally served in the Confederate Army, but deserted in 1863 and joined the Federal Army in 1864. Ms. Triplett, who was born when her father was 83, was officially recognized as a Real Daughter by the Sons of Union Veterans in 2011. Severely disabled, she drew a Civil War military survivor's pension of \$73.13 per month from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 cwrtedinner@yahoo.com.

REMINDER: Beginning in 2020, dinner will be \$26 for members and \$30 for non-members.

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 2020 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 2020. Dinner Meetings are held at the UMW's Jepson Center located at:

[1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA](http://1119HanoverStreet.com)

Dinner cost is \$32.00 per person.

Advance reservations should be made by email: dinner@cwrtf.org or telephone: 540-361-2105.

CWRTF's All Activities Cancelled Through May 2020:

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From the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS)- Massachusetts Photograph Collection.

Fredericksburg National Cemetery

One place you can still visit during the pandemic is the Fredericksburg National Cemetery, a twelve acre parcel on a hill above Lafayette Boulevard less than a mile away from downtown Fredericksburg. It is the final resting place for 15,300 souls, most of them battle or disease fatalities of the Civil War. Nearly thirteen thousand lie in anonymity. There are thousands of stories

there. Many such stories are recounted in Where Valor Proudly Sleeps: A History of Fredericksburg National Cemetery, 1866-1933 by Donald C. Pfanz (Southern Illinois University Press, 2018). Following 8 facts are gleaned from this fascinating and exhaustive history, in the hope that it will encourage members and friends to read the entire book.

- (1. There are four principal types of headstones in the cemetery: those for identified Civil War soldiers, those for unidentified Civil War soldiers, stones with a shield emblem (used mostly for Spanish-American War veterans), general-style marble stones (marking graves of soldiers from the twentieth century World Wars).
- (2. Granite headstones for identified Civil War soldiers have a slab design and a slightly rounded top. Chiseled into the face of the stone are the soldier's name (rank is included for officers) and state. Unidentified soldiers are buried beneath granite blocks, six inches square and thirty inches long. Only the top four inches protrude above ground. The top flat finished surface contains the grave number and a figure indicating the number of remains buried beneath it. Stones with only the grave number indicate that one soldier is buried there.
- (3. Families were permitted to erect private headstones, as long as they received permission from the War Department and paid costs with their own funds. There are eighteen such headstones in the cemetery. Only two belong to soldiers who died during the Civil War.
- (4. The last soldier to be interred in a private grave was Private Harry Bankard in 1945. Ten burials since that year were all wives of soldiers who are also buried in the Fredericksburg National Cemetery. The cemetery is "the domain of the common soldier." There are no general officers and eight known field-grade officers buried there.
- (5. A 1973 monument honors Captain William W. Parker's Virginia battery, which fought at the Second Battle of Fredericksburg in 1863. It is the only Confederate monument in the cemetery, and the only monument in the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park honoring a Virginia military unit.
6. The most recognized feature of Fredericksburg National Cemetery is Humphreys Monument, in the center of the cemetery on the site of the former flagstaff. General Andrew A. Humphreys commanded a division of the Union Fifth Corps, including eight regiments of Pennsylvania soldiers. The

Pennsylvania legislature appropriated \$23,500 for the statue and paid transportation costs for honorably discharged division veterans to attend the dedication ceremony in November 1908.

- (7. There are at least twenty African-Americans among the cemetery's burials. They include five Civil War veterans of the US Colored Troops (USCT) regiments. One of them is Charles Henry Sprow, who served in the First Cavalry, USCT, and began life as a slave at Chatham. He gained his freedom and joined the Union army at the age of twenty-one. He mustered out of service in 1866 and resided in Fredericksburg until his death in 1926.
- (8. Although records indicate otherwise, there may be one Confederate soldier buried in the cemetery. Burial registers list a Private A.J. Grant of the Fifty-Eighth Pennsylvania, who reportedly died during the fighting at Spotsylvania. Pennsylvania records do not further identify Grant. The Fifty-Eighth Pennsylvania did not serve in the Fredericksburg area, but the Fifty-Eighth Virginia did. Virginia rosters for that unit include Private Andrew J. Grant who was killed on May 12, 1864 at Spotsylvania. It is probable that Andrew Grant's body was mistaken for a Union soldier as the battle dead lay side by side on the battlefield.

Fredericksburg National Cemetery is truly "history in your own backyard."

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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:

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