



**THE DRUM & BUGLE**  
**Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table**  
**Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter**  
September 2018, Volume 15, Issue 9

**Speaker:** Peter Maugle  
**Topic:** “Medal of Honor Stories from Area Battlefields”  
**When:** Monday, September 10, 2018  
**Location:** Brock’s Riverside Grill  
**Times:** Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 p.m.

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**Peter Maugle –“Medal of Honor Stories from Area Battlefields”**

Our speaker for September will be local favorite Peter Maugle. Peter is a native of Bethlehem, PA and holds a B.A. in history from Pennsylvania State University. For six years, Peter was a Park Ranger at the Valley Forge National Historical Park. He has been at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park since 2011. Peter has conducted many tours and programs related to the American Revolution and Civil War. He is a certified weapons supervisor with the Park Service. He has previously spoken to our round table about artillery during the Battle of Chancellorsville and Civil War battlefield tactics. During this program, Peter will discuss acts of heroism by Medal of Honor winners on Fredericksburg area battlefields.

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**“Cloaked in a Mystery – Confederate Generals and Their Uniforms”  
by Richard Lewis**

A Review of the August 2018 Program by Greg Mertz

Many Civil War students are familiar with the work that William Frassanito has done with Civil War field photography. His attention to detail has enabled him to determine the precise view of many field images. Our August speaker, Richard Lewis indicated that such attention to detail is also essential in examining Civil War studio photography.

Lewis grew up with a fascination for uniforms of all types and thanks to his grandmother, who was a daughter of a Confederate soldier, he also became captivated with Confederate generals. It was only natural that he took great interest in the uniforms of Confederate generals, which were anything but “uniform.” Lewis indicated that while there are some specifications of how a general’s uniform was to look, it is exceedingly difficult to find two uniforms that are alike.

When Lewis discovered that Benjamin Huger and Henry H. Sibley wore very similar uniforms in their photographs, he first thought that they may have gotten uniforms from the same tailor. But in examining the details of photograph, he noticed that the uniforms both had a unique wrinkle in the left

arm and concluded that they were not just similar uniforms, but that both generals wore the *same* identical uniform in their respective photographs.

Perhaps one officer loaned his handsome uniform to the other when having their images taken about the same time. But that theory was shot down when Lewis discovered that several different generals wore that same uniform when photographed. Other officers who were not generals, turned down the collar with the insignia for a general and had their pictures taken in that same uniform as well. Lewis figured that the uniform was probably a prop in some southern photography studio.

Lewis wondered if other uniforms were likewise worn by multiple generals. He found one uniform with a thickly embroidered general's emblem of a wreath around three stars, in which the wreath had a distinctly lopsided shape that resembled the Nike swoosh. The uniform also had a button that was slightly out of place. Because of the conspicuous aspects of this uniform, Lewis was able to prove that it was also worn by several different generals as well. The generals were from different theaters of the war, so Lewis surmised that each must have had a reason to go to Richmond at some time during the war, and concluded the uniform was a prop for some Richmond studio.

Lewis looked at other props in these photographs, including an intricately carved chair, a distinctive table and a tapestry, in hopes that it would help in identifying the studio. Lewis was stunned when he discovered one of those props in an image of a *Union* soldier. The Union soldier's image was credited to the studio of the most famous photographer of the Civil War – Matthew Brady. Brady had studios in Washington, DC and New York City. There was no way that Confederate generals could get to either of those cities to be photographed during the war. Lewis made a major discovery when he realized that the photos had to be taken *after* the Civil War.

After confirming that the props were indeed associated with Brady's New York studio, Lewis researched to see if the Confederate generals had reason to visit New York, and found that most had been to the city.

He further discovered that a group of U.S. Army officers in the Mexican War who for while lived in the palace of the mayor of Mexico City, formed a group called the Aztec Club of 1847 that met regularly. When they met after the Civil War, the group welcomed the former Confederate officers. All of the Confederate generals photographed in that uniform except one – Thomas L. Clingman – were members of the Aztec Club. The first post-war meeting of the Aztec Club in 1867 was held in New York City.

Lewis next wondered where Brady came up with a Confederate uniform as a prop. While looking for additional images of uniforms, Lewis found the uniform with the unusual general's emblem and the out of place button, attributed by Wikipedia to the Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans as the uniform of General Mansfield Lovell. The staff at the Confederate Memorial Hall informed Lewis that they did not have the uniform, but thought that it might be in the Louisiana State Museum, also in New Orleans. It turned out to be so. The museum had solid provenience on the uniform coming from the Lovell family. Lovell was an engineer living in New York City after the Civil War.

The story has been unfolding for several years, and is not likely complete. Does the Sibley-Huger uniform still exist, for example?

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### 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](mailto:cwrtedinner@yahoo.com)

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## Executive Committee Bios

Each month this newsletter will feature a short biography of one of our Executive Committee members. This month we feature John Griffiths

### John Grant Griffiths EXCOM Member-at-Large

John is an early member of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Roundtable, having joined in 1989. John is also an original member of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust as well as an original member of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (which is now the American Battlefield Trust). John grew up in Arlington County Virginia and after a fruitless attempt at getting a college education, he attended a technical school in Arlington and became a draftsman. In this capacity, he went to work for the Federal Government. In the course of his Federal career, he worked for the Dept. of Agriculture in Beltsville, Maryland; in Peoria, Illinois; the Dept. of the Army at Fort Lee in Petersburg, Virginia; and finally the Marine Corps at Quantico, Virginia. Having retired from the Federal government, he has become very involved in Civil War re-enactments. His interest in the American Civil War streams largely from the fact that he is a great, great, grandson of President and Major General Ulysses S. Grant.

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### 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 email: [dinner@cwrtf.org](mailto:dinner@cwrtf.org) or telephone: 540-361-2105.

#### CWRTF's Scheduled Speakers for the 2018 and 2019 Program Year:

September 26, 2018	Frank Orlando	"Gen. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee in Character"
October 24, 2018	Gordon Rhea	"The Generalship of Lee and Grant in the Overland Campaign"
November 14, 2018	Richard Lewis	"Confederate Generals' Uniforms"
January 23, 2019	Robert Dunkerly	"Civil War Railroads"
February 27, 2019	Dr. Bradley Gottfried	"Maps of the Battle of Fredericksburg"
March 27, 2019	Bob O'Connor	"James Hanger and the Hanger Company"
April 24, 2019	Mark Tooley	"The 1861 Peace Conference"

May 22, 2019	Patrick Schroeder, NPS	"Zouaves: America's Forgotten Soldiers"
June 19, 2019	Dave Bastion	"The Vicksburg Canal"
SEPT. 25, 2019	Brian E. Withrow	"Ulysses S. Grant in Character"
OCT.23, 2019	Michael K. Shaffer	"In Memory of Self and Comrades: Thomas W. Colley's Recollection"

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**From the Official Records: General Polk Receives News of the Battle of Fredericksburg**

HEADQUARTERS WHARTON'S CAVALRY BRIGADE,  
Nolensville, December 17, 1862.

Lieut. Gen. LEONIDAS POLK,  
*Commanding Polk's Corps d'Armeé, Army of Tennessee:*

GENERAL: Through a dispatch from Colonel Smith, commanding at Franklin, I am informed that a lady just from Nashville reports the enemy as sending some of their heavy guns toward Bowling Green, and other indications that the enemy intend a backward movement. The colonel also reports the picket force in direction of Franklin as being increased. A party of gentlemen arrived in Franklin this morning from Nashville, accompanying the remains of Hon. William H. Polk for interment in Columbia. They bring Federal news of the battle at Fredericksburg. General Burnside lost 5,000 men in taking our first line of fortifications, and it was estimated that they would lose 30,000 to take the second. Burnside recrossed the river and destroyed the pontoon bridges. It was believed at Nashville that Burnside was badly whipped. The same party of gentlemen say they passed a regiment of infantry this side of Brentwood, on the Franklin pike, going in that direction, and saw one going the other way. They report the enemy as being encamped on the Franklin pike, from Brentwood to Nashville all the way.

I have the honor to be, yours, respectfully,

**JNO. A. WHARTON,**  
*Commanding Cavalry Brigade`*

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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](http://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  
**Vice President:** John Sapanara  
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