



# THE LIGHT POST

FEBRUARY 2026



## CWRTC AWARDS GRANTS

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*By Carol VanOrnum*

During 2025, the CWRT Congress launched a new initiative providing grant funding to Civil War Round Tables. Applicants were asked to describe their project in several critical categories: Fundraising, Historical Research, Marketing, Sister Round Tables, and Non-Profit (501c3) Registration.

Six local CWRTs applied for and received Grants in the areas of Marketing, Fundraising, and Historical Research. The projects that these six CWRTs are developing are impressive, especially in the areas of collaboration within local communities and efforts to grow their memberships. The CWRT Congress trusts that this Grant Initiative process will encourage all local Round Tables to consider how these Grant Awards might assist their own efforts toward an improvement of sustainability.



Confederates' view of Armstrong Hill. Photo by John Banks. <https://www.civilwarmonitor.com/a-visit-to-armstrongs-hill/>

### Historical Research Initiative

The **Knoxville CWRT** recognized an opportunity within their community to preserve wholly undeveloped City-owned land, which encompasses the site of the little-known Battle of Armstrong Hill. During the Siege of Knoxville, on November 25, 1863, the command of this hill enabled the Confederates to shell the town to make it untenable and to threaten the pontoon bridge which served to supply Union troops. Today, only a trained eye can visualize the remnants of the battle site. KCWRT proposed to the City officials that they investigate the battlefield, locate/validate/develop signage for key sites, and assist in building trails and other elements (rifle pits, trenches, etc.) to re-create the field as it existed in 1863. The City

agreed and asked the KCWRT to lead the planning process for interpreting the site. KCWRT has worked hard over the years to develop a strong relationship with the City of Knoxville, the result of which is a "win-win" situation for the Battle of Armstrong Hill preservation.

The **CWRT of the Mid-Ohio Valley** recognized the need to erect a historical marker to designate the site of the Marietta Militia Redoubt and to honor the 175 militia members who played a crucial role in ending Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's "Great Raid" across Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio at the Battle of Buffington Island in 1863 near Portland, Ohio. The historical

(Continued on Page 3)



Buffington Island Battlefield Memorial Park

## CHANGE IS UPON US

*By Mike Movius, President*

During the Christmas holiday, I undertook to update our website. We've had the same website since 2019, and I thought it needed changing. I found a theme that I liked and purchased it. Then, I realized that I didn't have the skills to undertake that kind of change. So, I began reading up on website migration. The why and the how. Pretty soon, I began mapping the old and new website URLs. It was tedious, believe me.

But why did it become important to conduct the migration? I had found that I had become a slave to the work process I was supporting. Having so much content, and with so many viewers, resulted in a lot of re-work such as fixing broken links, correcting dates and locations, and responding to our follower suggestions, complaints, ideas, expectations, and other comments.

Don't get me started on duplicating efforts to get videos on the website AND on YouTube. Why was I doing that, anyway? It was simply because at one time years ago YouTube killed our channel. They accused us of some mischievous deed I don't remember and removed our page. After I complained and explained what we were doing, why we were doing it, and the origin of the videos, they reinstated the channel. My response was never to let them do that again. So, I doubled down with a duplicative work process with all its many travails.

That made me think about CWRTs and why they behave the way they do. I surmise that much of what happens in a Round Table is based on a set of patterns, assumptions, or circumstances that happened before most members joined. For example, many CWRTs don't have a rich benefactor, so they develop a fundraising method that is easy and efficient. It might be an annual auction of books, cakes, pies, and inexpensive buttons, hats, and T-shirts. For several years, the auction works well and sufficiently augments the treasury.

But, after a while, it becomes a burden. The same people have the same issues getting auction items, and members see the same

old stuff year after year. They don't know how the idea started, but the pizzazz has vanished. If change isn't in the air, it's possible that attendance will drop off, revenue may dwindle, program quality may suffer, and attrition can take hold.

For those reasons, it is important that leaders discontinue managing their CWRT and begin anew as if they were re-founding their organization. Discover why things are the way they are. Consider taking new and bold steps to develop community partnerships, go on a "victory tour" of local service clubs to excite the audience, find out how other CWRTs have been successful, and be fearless about failure.



### IMPROVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND NETWORKING

And, what a great time to be alive! This is the 250th anniversary of America. Every veterans' organization in the country has something going to celebrate. Get on their bandwagon! If it isn't you, who will it be?



Photo: Nancy Harder

## 2025 CWRTC AWARDS GRANTS (CONTINUED)

(Continued from Page 1)

marker will interpret the actions of the 175 militia members who stood steadfast in the face of Morgan's 1,900 raiders, making their defeat and capture possible. Currently, the location of the redoubt is not identified, and interpretation makes no reference to the Marietta Militia. A ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Annual Commemoration of the Battle of Buffington Island on Saturday, July 18, 2026, in collaboration with the Cadot-Blessing Camp #126 of the Sons of Union Veterans, Gallipolis, OH and the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation.

### Marketing Initiative

The **Quincy Gillmore CWRT**, founded in 2011, is a small Round Table of approximately 30 members. Their attempts to make themselves known in the north central community of Elyria, OH, have been to create a YouTube channel, offer free memberships to college students, and focus heavily on



press releases and social media announcements to the public. Now they have created a logo and intend to create business cards for their officers to distribute. In addition, they plan to create brochures to post within the community. They've drawn on the Cleveland CWRT's experience to achieve exposure and to grow.

The **Louisville CWRT** recognizes the need to attract a younger audience to sustain their Round Table. Grant funds will be used to fund an educational outreach initiative involving seven high school students and one chaperone from the Greater Clark County School District. An invitation to attend for free (\$35 is the cost of one meal) at one of their meetings will allow the students to meet CWRT members, engage in Q&A with the speaker, and gain insight into historical research and interpretation. Post-event outreach will include requesting the students to write short reflections to share with classmates, parents, and CWRT members. Selected reflections will appear in their newsletter and social media, and teachers and parents will receive follow-up materials about CWRT educational programs and future student opportunities. The LCWRT intends to make this student outreach initiative an annual tradition, partnering with different schools each year. The LCWRT feels that by building relationships with educators, promoting family involvement, and demonstrating clear community impact, this project supports both membership renewal and organizational longevity.

### Fundraising Initiative

The **Tennessee Valley CWRT** is looking to increase community awareness of their Round Table and thereby increase paid memberships. They intend to create printed materials such as posters,

business cards, and small flyers to be distributed throughout their community of Huntsville, Alabama, in order to recruit new members. Their goal is to attract 20 new dues-paying members by July 2026; organize five visits, public stories, or interviews by influential people or organizations such as teachers, media, politicians, or club leaders; and receive invitations to speak or participate also by July. By creating durable advertising materials, community outreach will be easier to attain.

The **Inland Empire CWRT** of Redlands, California, seeks to establish a vital fund, enabling a substantial donation to the Lincoln Memorial Shrine located in their community. By increasing this fund from additional donations made by their members and the public, they are empowering the Watchorn Lincoln Memorial Association and the administrators of the Lincoln Memorial

Shrine and Research Museum to research and acquire new, historically significant artifacts for the Museum. The IECWRT believes that nothing is more emblematic of sustainability than a researched historical artifact. The proceeds that the IECWRT donates to the Watchorn Association will be presented at their annual dinner. The IECWRT's logo will be displayed in the registration area of the dinner event and on the projected screen during the dinner service. Donations will be tracked on the IECWRT's website. Not only is the memorial and research center the largest museum located west of the Mississippi River that is dedicated to Lincoln and the Civil War, but it is also the home of the Inland Empire CWRT.

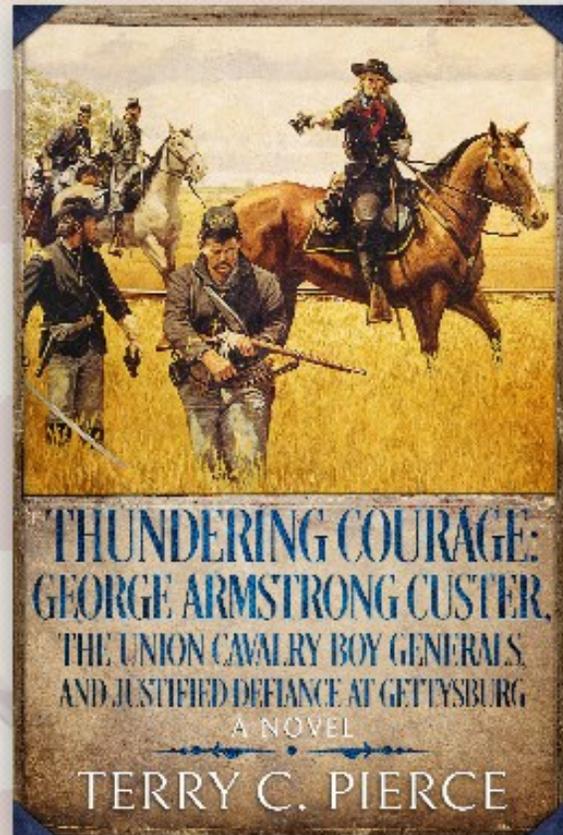
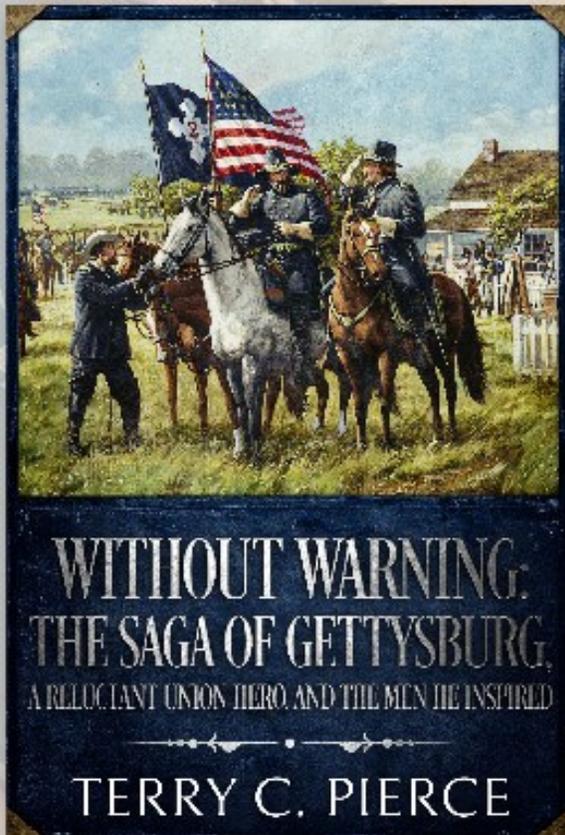


Lincoln Memorial Shrine and Research Museum

Why is "*character*" the heart & soul of leadership?

How do you respond to a "*Without Warning*" moment?

Can a battlefield order ever be "*Justifably Defied*?"



To learn the answer to these thought-provoking questions, read the first two novels of Dr. Terry C. Pierce's (Captain USN, retired) Gettysburg Trilogy. Both meticulously researched works examines the battle through the lens of the character and leadership displayed by the key Union soldiers and officers during this pivotal battle.

To reach Terry Pierce or arrange for him to speak at your CWRT email him at: [PierceTerryC@gmail.com](mailto:PierceTerryC@gmail.com) or at:

[www.terrycpierce.com](http://www.terrycpierce.com)

## THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH CURT

By Carol VanOrnum

The following is Part Two of a conversation we began with Curt Fields in the November *Light Post*.

**CWRT Congress: You occasionally team up with other living historians. How does a dual presentation differ from presenting solo?**

**Curt Fields:** I really must talk out of both sides of my mouth on this one. There's no difference at all, and yes, there is. What I say as General or President Grant does not change, even if I have President Lincoln or any other Living Historian on stage with me. I am in tune with the other historian and have a good idea of what he's going to say and, conversely, what I offer to the other fellow, requires some degree of response. He will have prompted me to make a point to follow up or re-emphasize what he said. The content of any given presentation won't change much, but the path is guided by what they say and what I say in response. My analogy might be that you have two horses walking side by side while pulling a carriage behind them. Being on stage with another Historian requires our moving in sync with the other "horse," as opposed to riding free on the range.

For a long time, I had never done a talk with anyone else on the stage. After doing Grant for several years, I presented my

idea to Thomas Jessee, preeminent Living Historian of General Robert E. Lee, "Let's do a program that I am calling "Appomattox: The Last 48 Hours" and perform a dual presentation that covers the exchange of notes between Grant and Lee from 5pm on April 7<sup>th</sup> to noon on April 9<sup>th</sup>." The idea of doing a duet with an artist of equal talent and knowledge made the sum of the parts greater than the whole. We decided to create *Appomattox: The Last 48 Hours*. You see, few know of the notes that the two Generals exchanged happened over a period of just two days. Grant sent Lee the first note at 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 1865. Lee sent his last note to Grant at 9:30 a.m. on April 9<sup>th</sup>, which Grant didn't receive until 11:50 a.m.



Grant walked out of the McLean House about 3:30 p.m. Within 48 hours, nine

messages were exchanged. I was so blessed that when I suggested it to Tom, he was very enthusiastic about working together. To answer your question on whether I need to know what he's talking about and what he's going to say? We rehearsed a bit and we've done this presentation about four or five times now. What really stands out to me is that consistently people say, "I had no idea all this happened – all the notes that were exchanged."

As a side note, I want to emphasize how much we enjoy showing how Grant and Lee actually looked back then. Grant always looked like an unmade bed. Lee rode in like Mars, the God of War. And you know, the uniform that Lee wore that day had never been worn before then. Grant had left Petersburg on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He was seven days on the road in the pursuit of Lee. He said that he hadn't bathed or changed clothes since April 2<sup>nd</sup>, "No, not even my underclothes." I love telling people that. It's shocking to people to be able to visually draw those contrasts, and it is very satisfying when they grasp the situation.

Working with yet another living historian, Morgan Gates as Confederate General John C. Pemberton, is another presentation I really enjoy. He, like Tom Jessee, has the physicality of the real Pemberton, which is important in portraying any person. Dennis Boggs is another Living Historian I have worked with

in presentations, and he creates an excellent Lincoln.

**CWRT Congress: Do you ever get emotional when presenting a more monumental moment or subject, such as Grant at Appomattox?**

**Curt Fields:** Yes, I do some-

**"Grant always looked like an unmade bed. Lee rode in like Mars, the God of War."**

times become emotional. Talking of the death and agony suffered by the soldiers of both sides as well as civilians unlucky enough to be in the path of War will get me choked up. Sometimes I will hit a historical nerve that's a little raw. It is surprising how I get very close to the reality of the day.

**CWRT Congress: What's the funniest thing that ever happened when portraying Grant?**

**Curt Fields:** I was doing a one-hour presentation in Indiana. During the Q&A, a nine-year-old boy's little hand shot up from the back of the room. I said, "What is your question, sir? Stand up so I can see

(Continued on Page 6)

## THE CONCLUSION OF OUR CONVERSATION WITH CURT

*(Continued from Page 5)*

you.” He asked, “What do you like to eat for breakfast?” Laughter filled the room. “Easy here,” I said to the crowd. “It’s an important question to him. No one has ever asked me that.” I turned back to him. “My favorite breakfast is sliced cucumbers dipped in cold pickle brine.” “Oh yuck!” he exclaimed. The room erupted again. “Now I know that breakfast may seem strange to you. For dessert, I like bread pudding and sugar cookies.” “Oh, that’s better,” said the little boy.

Grant had such a tobacco habit of cigars and the pipe that his tongue must have been so coated that it took something

like pickle brine to cut through his tastebuds.

I reconnected recently, through the media, with a young man that I met about 10 years ago at Remembrance Day while outside the Gettysburg Visitor Center. His dad had asked if they could get a picture. I found out that he is now an Eagle Scout – Order of the Arrow (which is a Medal of Honor). He isn’t a tot anymore and says it was meeting General Grant that inspired him to pursue History and become involved in reenacting. It is really gratifying for me to know that I had touched at least one young person.

**CWRT Congress: There’s a fine line between General Grant and**

**Curt Fields. Do they ever blend by accident?**

**Curt Fields:** Yes, I sometimes catch myself speaking as Grant before someone says, “Curt, Curt, you’re not Grant.” “What do you mean,” I ask. “You’ve been using I and me and you slipped into Grant and didn’t know it.” I do slip, but not too often. Early on, it took constant concentration to talk as Grant.

**CWRT Congress: Thank you, Curt, for sharing a "behind-the-scenes" look at your life as Grant. The CWRT Congress thanks you for your dedication to preserving American history through your excellent portrayal of General Ulysses S. Grant."**

**Curt Fields:** I’ve got too much Grant in me *not* to do Grant. It’s what I love.

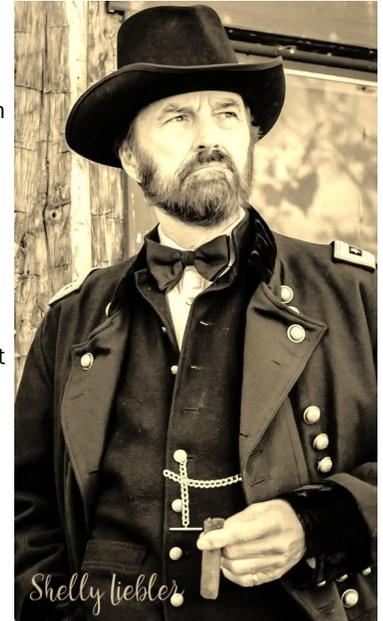


Photo: Shelly Liebler

To reach Curt directly, email [curtfields@generalgrantbyhimself.com](mailto:curtfields@generalgrantbyhimself.com).

## IN MEMORIAM – WALLACE L. RUECKEL

By CWRT Congress

We are saddened to learn of the passing of Wally Rueckel. Fewer people in the last 15 years have had a bigger impact on the Civil War Round Table community than Wally.

Wally helped co-found the Brunswick CWRT in Southport, NC. According to President John Butler, “The Round Table has exploded in growth due largely to Wally’s personality and efforts to bring a quality product to the members.” Wally’s efforts rippled out beyond Brunswick.



1944-2025

Wally was a founding member of the Civil War Round Table Congress, founded in 2016.

“His depth of experience about organizational success, human behavior, and the importance of teaching and learning about American history was profound,” said Mike Movius.

“Following his departure from the Board of Directors, we named an annual award after him, the Wallace L. Rueckel Innovation Award.”

Brunswick’s statement noted that “Wally “passed away

quietly and at peace on Monday, November 24, 2025. In his final days, he was surrounded by family and friends. To all who knew him and loved him, he will be dearly missed.”

*Reprinted with permission in part from Chris Mackowski’s article in Emerging Civil War, 11/25/25.*

**JOIN US FOR OUR 2026 SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE!**

Petersburg, Virginia, will be the site of our 2026 Sustainability Conference. The event will begin on **Friday, August 28, 2026**, at the Pamplin Historic Park Museum, where you'll check in to receive conference credentials, enjoy adult beverages and hors d'oeuvres, tour the Museum, visit with your favorite authors, and hear a delightful presentation about Petersburg from author/historian A. Wilson Greene.

**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** will begin at the Education Center with breakfast and coffee, followed by Problem Session #1, lunch and networking, a trivia contest, Problem Session #2, and a wrap-up discussion.

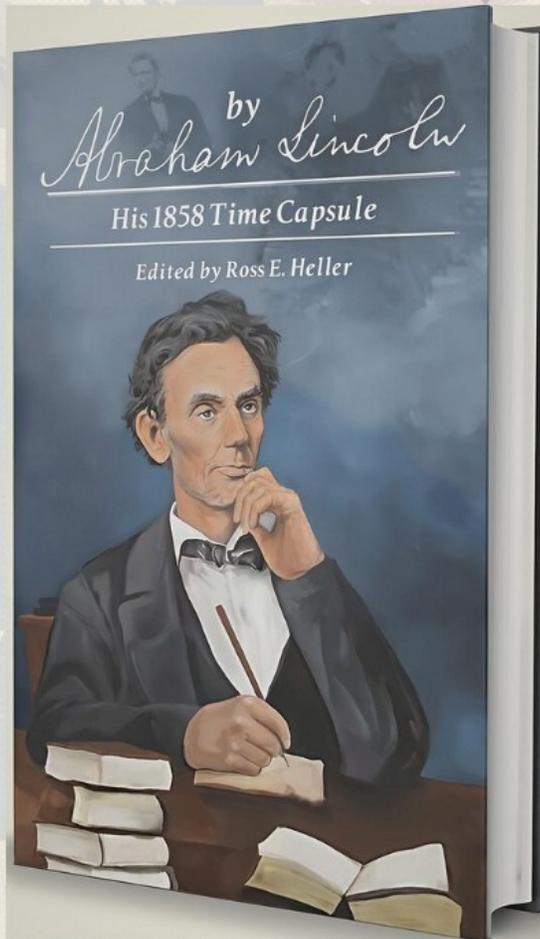
Saturday evening will feature an Awards Dinner, with networking and a presentation by General Grant, followed by a raffle drawing and closing remarks.

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** will feature two tours: The morning will feature a three-site tour by A. Wilson Greene of Battery Five, Fort Stedman, and the Crater. You'll learn about what happened there, the objectives of Army commanders and their significance.

The afternoon tour will be at City Point. You will meet General Grant at his headquarters at City Point in the afternoon, where you'll learn about the logistics involved in serving the Union Army, the significance of City Point, and the major issues General Grant faced. Also, there will be a tour of Eppes Plantation Mansion with the NPS.

## Discover Lincoln's 1858 Time Capsule

*by Abraham Lincoln: His 1858 Time Capsule*



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## OLD BALDY CWRT RECEIVES THE MATTHEW BOROWICK MARKETING AWARD

*By Matthew Borowick*

The Old Baldy Civil War Round Table was founded in 1977. And not only is it surviving, it is thriving. Much like its namesake (General Meade's horse who was wounded several times throughout the war), the Round Table has exhibited a determination to succeed where other Round Tables have had to close down. That is why the Round Table was recently awarded the Matthew Borowick Marketing Award by the CWRT Congress for 2025.

The award is named for me, Matthew Borowick. I am a former Civil War News columnist and authored *The Civil War Round Table Hand-*

*book.* The award recognizes a Round Table whose efforts to communicate and recruit provide an impressive example for others to follow.

In addition to its leadership, past and present, Old Baldy has adapted to changing times and challenges. Originally housed in a historic building in Philadelphia, the Round Table moved to suburban South Jersey to be closer to many of its members.

They also adapted to changing worldwide situations, incorporating remote access to meetings during the pandemic. That access remains in place to this day, effectively doubling meeting attendance.

Leadership. Flexibility. Foresight. These hallmarks of the Old Baldy CWRT would have little effect if they were not known. And that's where Old Baldy's prowess in marketing comes in.

The group uses a wide array of media to share the news about its existence, its programs, its volunteer activities, and its contributions to a better understanding of our nation's history. A regularly updated web site, social media, newsletters, brochures, banners, and mailings all ensure that the Round Table's programs are entertaining and open to the public.

Far too many Round Tables are losing members. However, the Baldy CWRT stands as a

**The Old Baldy CWRT stands as a shining example of the ways that Round Tables can not only survive, but thrive...**

shining example of the ways that Round Tables can not only survive, but thrive, by having exemplary programs and broadcasting them far and wide.

The original Old Baldy would be proud.



Left to right: President Calvin Kinsel, Matt Borowick, and Past President Rich Jankowski

## SPOTLIGHT ON A CWRT CONGRESS BOARD MEMBER

### Melissa Winn

By Carol VanOrnum

Melissa Winn's career path has been a remarkable journey of combining talent with interests and a personal drive. Her bio reads as follows:

*Melissa A. Winn is the Director of Marketing and Communications for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine. Previously, she was the Marketing Manager for the American Battlefield Trust and Director of Photography for HistoryNet, publisher of nine history-related magazines, including America's Civil War, American History, and Civil War Times. She is a Senior Editor for Military Images magazine; Editor of Shavings, the member newsletter of the Early American Industries Association, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Civil War Round Table Congress; and President of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. She is recently named an Emerging Civil War Member Historian.*

Yet, one must look deeper to see how that motivation developed. By the third grade, Abraham Lincoln fascinated her – his accessible demeanor – and she read every book in the library about him. She majored in English, concentrating on “creative non-fiction,” at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee where she met her future husband who hailed from

Fredericksburg, VA. They finished school and moved to Centerville, VA, in September of 2000.

Most of her early career concentrated on journalism and raising her three children. In 2016, after a competitive interview process with HistoryNet, they hired her as a photo editor for several of their nine history magazines: *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, and *American History*. One of the editors told her, “This is Civil War 24/7.” Her response was, “Okay, sign me up!” She felt she'd reached her “dream job.” HistoryNet's multiple historical publications offered lots of opportunities for her, and she expanded her role to include more writing, editing, and photography. She shared, “It blended everything I love to do into one job.” More doors opened, expanding her field of knowledge, and soon she was director of photo research doing what she loved. She brings the same enthusiasm for her job as Director of Marketing & Communications at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

While battles and tactics interest her, it's the innovation of the time that she especially concentrates her study on – the social changes, medical changes, and in her area of interest, photography, which was a brand-new medium. For



example, it fascinated her that wounded soldiers were compelled to sell photos of their injured selves to earn money.

Melissa's experience with Civil War photography has been profound. One particular experience touched her deeply. She explained, “The U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C., had a Dead Letter Office. Finding recipients of lost letters was important during the Civil War. The postal clerk had the legal ability to open undeliverable letters searching for clues as to where to forward the envelopes, which often included pictures of soldiers. Because the Postmaster was patriotic, he kept those pictures, some 5,000 to 8,000 of them by the end of the war. His idea was to post them on

the walls of the Dead Letter Office Museum. People were invited to view them and search for loved ones, sometimes recognizing a cousin or neighbor. That person was given the photo and letter, and the Postmaster made note of the claimant. More than 2,000 were claimed, but many thousands were not. Recently, I traveled to Rochester, NY, where the George Eastman Museum has ten of the panels of soldier photos that hung in the Dead Letter Office Museum. To see this piece of history *in person* touched me in a profound way.”

*Melissa Winn can be reached at [Melissa@cwrtcongress.org](mailto:Melissa@cwrtcongress.org).*

## REDISCOVERING THE VALUE OF PARTNERSHIPS

By David Hamon

Like many “sister” Round Tables across this land, the Civil War Roundtable of Fredericksburg Virginia (CWRTF) overlooked the value and purpose of establishing civic and regional partnerships. The concept of creating partnerships for us was mostly transactional: temporary in nature and perhaps linked to an event or based on personal relationships in a particular organization. But creating and investing in partnerships is one of the keys to health, welfare, and the sustainability of all Round Tables.

The CWRTF recently completed a four-month review on the effectiveness of our governance and planning processes, resulting in the reimagining of the task and purpose of our organization. We undertook to conceive of and execute a brighter, more sustainable, future.

One glaring and embarrassing omission of our management plan was the lack of partners and partnerships. The

Fredericksburg Virginia area is blessed with layers of history represented by dozens of educational and civic groups.

A review of the Semiquincentennial commemorations revealed new initiatives from unrelated organizations. One such organization, The Fredericksburg Sister Cities, will host guest lectures during 2026 on the culture, history, and heritage of French, German, and Italian immigration to the region. Immigrants from these countries (and others) who settled in the region fought and sacrificed for the Union cause.

Additionally, Fredericksburg created the first partnership in the Commonwealth of Virginia with an African city—Prince's Town in Ghana (Ghana was formerly known as the Gold Coast). This port city actively participated in the slave trade sending many enslaved people to the port of Fredericksburg. In June, aligning with the “Juneteenth” holiday, our community will be treated to a lecture on this subject.

Another partnership opportunity connected to local antebellum and

postbellum history is the University of Mary Washington’s (UMW) Department and Center for Historic Preservation. Students, faculty, and archeologists have uncovered rich history on life before and during the war at three major plantations: Belmont, Sherwood Forest, and Brompton. Sherwood, in particular, was an unrealized treasure as the Union used the plantation as both a picket outpost and aerial observation balloon port in 1862-63. Former enslaved workers curiously continued to live on Sherwood after the war. Several appeared as witnesses in a post-war trial of the plantation overseer. These “places and spaces” and their inhabitants enrich our Civil War History study, extending our understanding of the war beyond the battles.

Finally, our local historic foundation, the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc. (HFFI), is playing a central role in organizing the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fredericksburg in 2028. In the past, HFFI

has sponsored community events related to Fredericksburg’s Civil War legacy. Last year, HFFI invited the public to a lecture on “Their Stuff and Their Stories: Civil War Soldiers in Fredericksburg.” This talk focused on the lives of the soldiers during the war and their time in Fredericksburg as told by what they left behind. Salem Church Ridge during the Battle of Chancellorsville saw hard fighting on May 3-4, 1863. Thousands of soldiers fought in this region during the course of the Civil War and in hundreds of encampments. Whilst the military operations have been carefully studied, details of the soldiers’ experiences are often not explicit in official records. Careful study of archival documents and archaeological sites came together to help tell their stories.

These burgeoning partnerships open up new horizons with endless opportunities to work together on exciting future projects. For the CWRTF Board of Directors, a rich and previously untapped source of new and younger members has revealed itself and for our membership, enrichment of the “member experience.”

*David Hamon serves on the CWRT Congress Board of Directors. He is Membership Chair and serves on the Program Committee on the Board of [CWRT of Fredericksburg](#).*



Sherwood Forest, the home of President John Tyler, is located near the James River in Charles City County, VA.

(Bill Crabtree, Jr./ Virginia Tourism Corp.)

## MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER

By CWRT Congress

**Cheryl McAuley** is the past president of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table in Huntsville, Alabama. Cheryl holds an undergraduate degree in piano performance from West Chester University (1975), a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in public management from George Mason University (1996), a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College (2005), and a Doctorate of Management in Organizational Leadership from University of Phoenix (2016).

In her civilian career, she served as an intelligence analyst and

### Dr. Cheryl McAuley



later led civilians and military members assigned to the Department of Defense (War) at the Pentagon and Washington Navy Yard. As an Army National Guard soldier and Army Reservist of 30 years, Cheryl served in the enlisted, commissioned and warrant ranks, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence Branch. After 9-11, she was deployed to the Horn of Africa (2004) and later volunteered for a one-year tour in Baghdad, Iraq (2009-2010). She retired from government and military in 2010.

Cheryl is a published author who chronicled her 2017

journey of climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa with her husband, John. She also wrote two books which contain her memoirs and lessons learned (2019, 2025). All three of them are on Amazon and available in paperback and Kindle. During COVID, she developed a program about Professor Thaddeus Lowe, an Aeronaut in the American Civil War. She enjoys presenting the information to adult continuing education groups, history groups, and Civil War Round Tables.

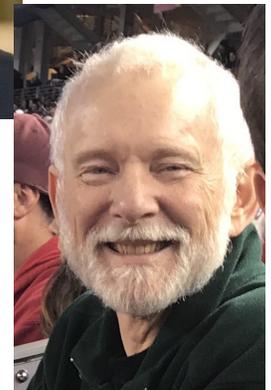
*Cheryl can be reached at [Cheryl@cwrtcongress.org](mailto:Cheryl@cwrtcongress.org).*

### In Other Board of Director News

**Steven Rauschkolb** has been promoted to Vice President of the CWRT Congress. He continues to provide invaluable services as CWRTC's Marketing Director. Steve is a member of the Cape Fear CWRT. He is the Managing Partner at The Crisfield Group (<http://www.crisfieldgroup.com>), a human resource and management consulting firm based in Leland, NC. Congratulations, Steve!

**Craig D. Apperson** recently resigned from the CWRTC Board of Directors due to health reasons and travel restrictions. Craig is a former director of the Army National Guard Psychological Health Program. In his service as a Congress Board Director, he shared an extraordinary perspective of how the Congress can further assist the Civil War Round Table community. Thank you, Craig!

**Dr. John Bamberl** recently retired from the CWRT Congress Board of Directors and has been elevated to the status of President Emeritus to honor his service. John is a co-founder of the CWRT Congress and served as Vice President. His continued and valuable insight to promote growth and sustainability of local Civil War Round Tables will forever be valued by the Congress. John also served as a past President of the Scottsdale CWRT and is a retired Urological Surgeon.





# Ulysses S. Grant

Portrayed by  
E.C. Fields, Jr., Ph.D.

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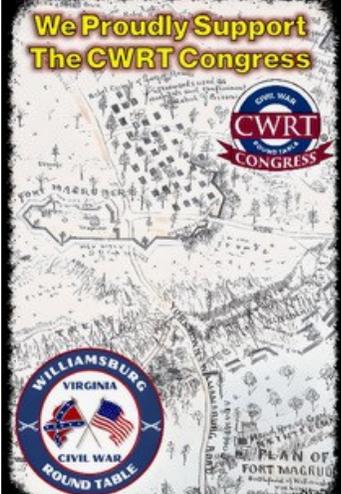
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*Photo credit: Frank Glick took this photo of an eagle perched on a gravestone at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota*