



## **THE DRUM & BUGLE**

**Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table**

**Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter**

**December 2016, Volume 13, Issue 12**

**Speaker: Peter Maugle**  
**Topic: "Most Perfect Order and Splendid Style: A Justification for Civil War Battlefield Tactics"**  
**When: Monday, December 12, 2016**  
**Location: Brock's Riverside Grill**  
**Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm**

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**Abstract on our Scheduled Speaker, Peter Maugle, Monday, December 12, 2016**

**By Jim Smithfield**

The scheduled speaker for our December 12, 2016, Dinner Meeting, will be Peter Maugle. Peter is a native of Pennsylvania and he's worked eleven years for the National Park Service. Serving first at the Valley Forge National Historical Park and then at the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, as a historian. Peter has served at these sites related to both the Revolutionary War and the American Civil War. He is a certified historic weapons supervisor with the National Park Service. He has a unique perspective on the technological advances of weaponry in both the 18th and 19th centuries and their subsequent effect on military tactics of that day. Peter will explain to us some of the various factors that influenced the military practices of the period in the hopes that we might better appreciate the mindset of the various military commanders of the day.

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### **The RVCWRT Bulletin Board**

The RVCWRT maintains a special bulletin board that is placed against the right side wall where guests enter the dining room. This Bulletin Board is utilized during each of our dinner meetings. Members will find many different articles about the Civil War placed there. These are there to be requested by members for their personal reading. Also, there will be information posted on the bulletin board about upcoming Civil War related events, along with various items of interest. Along with the various posted announcements, Civil War articles and related material will be placed there. These may each be requested and borrowed to take home to read.

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**Reminder: Contact Bob Jones to order Dinner in advance**  
**To Confirm Reservations: Telephone 540-399-1702 or send an e-mail to**  
[cwrtedinner@yahoo.com](mailto:cwrtedinner@yahoo.com) or [bobnpeg1954@gmail.com](mailto:bobnpeg1954@gmail.com)

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**"Divided We Fall: The Confederacy's Collapse from Within"**  
**Presented by Calvin Goddard Zon**  
**A Review of our November 2016 program by Greg Mertz**

Before our November 2016, speaker Calvin Goddard Zon wrote his book *"Divided We Fall: The Confederacy's Collapse from Within."* He had written a previous book that was about his ancestor, Henry P. Goddard, who served in the 14th Connecticut. In his first book *"The Good Fight That Didn't End: Henry P. Goddard's Accounts of Civil War and Peace"* Goddard made an observation after the *Battle of Fredericksburg* comparing the degree of unity within the two respective armies. Goddard felt that the Confederates were bound together, they were fighting on their own soil for the common defense of their homes. Conversely Goddard saw descent in the north with many being in favor of the abolition of slavery, while on the contrary, a substantial number of individuals held strong anti-Black views. While Goddard accurately reflected the division among the people of the North, he could not see that there was a lack of unison, also existing among the citizens of the Confederacy.

Even before the outbreak of Civil War, the populations in the mountainous regions of the South were predominately pro-Union. In fact the people of western Virginia and North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, northern Alabama and Georgia did not favor secession and they never supported the Confederacy.

Texas also had a substantial portion of its populace, including one of its most prominent citizens, who argued for staying in the Union. Sam Houston, who was serving as governor of Texas when the question of session was discussed, Houston argued adamantly against leaving the Union. He told the people of Texas, *"The North is determined to preserve this Union. They are not a fiery, impulsive people as you are, for they live in colder climates. But when they begin to move in a given direction, they move with the steady momentum and perseverance of a mighty avalanche; and what I fear is, they will overwhelm the South."* Yet, the state of Texas went against his counsel, joining the Confederacy, and when in March of 1861 Houston refused to swear his loyalty to the Confederacy he was forced out of office.

Slaves living in the Confederacy were naturally opposed to any government that was made up of only slave states. Of the 180,000 black soldiers to serve in the Federal army, it is estimated that 150,000 of them had been former slaves from the states that seceded from the Union.

Policies, such as that of one person being exempt from Confederate military service on any plantation with twenty or more slaves. This was extremely unpopular with those non-slave holding families, bringing rise to the phrase *"rich man's war – poor man's fight."* Impressment of crops to support the Confederacy and the conscription law to compel men to join the Confederate Army were central government policies that might be considered to tread on the issue of states rights.

The Confederacy's inability to provide its citizenry with affordable, essential commodities led to protests, including several significant food riots in 1863. Dissatisfaction with the hardships of their loved ones at home was often a direct motivation for a Confederate soldier's desertion. In 1864, the third year of war, Confederate President Jefferson Davis confessed that at least one-third of the soldiers in his armies in the field were absent, most were gone without leave.

Some locals were very sympathetic to the plight of the Confederate deserters and these locals became known as places where the deserters would be harbored. The recent book and following movie titled the *"Free State of Jones"* is about one such place, i.e.,

Jones County, Mississippi. It was in Jones County, where about 500 Confederate deserters drove off both the Confederate Cavalry and conscription agents. The panhandle of Florida was also a prominent place where deserters could safely hide. The locality of Jackson County, Alabama, seceded from the Confederacy in March of 1864.

When General Sherman's Union army entered northern Georgia, in the spring of 1864, thousands of citizens loyal to the Union joined his army. The town of Jasper, Georgia, was able to form a complete 1,000 man regiment of Union Home Guards.

Some Southerners aided the Union cause in much more unconventional ways, this included spying. Elizabeth Van Lew was a Richmond socialite who was able to plant a slave into the Confederate White House. This planted slave worked in the Davis dining room.

An organization in North Carolina called the *Heroes of America* protected Confederate deserters and they also ran an underground railroad to help escaping Unionists reach the north. Some Unionists, who had made it to the North, gave speeches, encouraging disheartened northerners by sharing personal examples of the dissent within the Confederacy and reassuring them to stay the course for only a little while longer and success would surely be theirs.

While the outcome of the Civil War was certainly decided upon the battlefield, the demise of the support on the Southern home front was a significant factor.

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## **The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg**

**Bob Jones**

As a courtesy the RVCWRT will be providing as a regular feature each month, the ongoing scheduled speakers for the CWRTF's Program Year. The *Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg* normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except for the meeting being held on the third Wednesday in June 2017). Their Dinner Meetings are held at the MWW's Jepson Center located at 1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA, with a dinner cost of \$32.00 for each person. Reservations should be made by telephoning 540-361-2105. Note: There is not a scheduled speaker for December 2016 and the CWRTF Speaker Program begins again on January 25, 2017, with Dwight Hughes and his presentation, the CSS Shenandoah.



### **CWRTF's Scheduled Speakers 2016 – 2017 Program Year**

December 2016	There will NOT be a Speaker for December 2016
JAN. 25, 2017	DWIGHT HUGHES – <i>CSS Shenandoah</i>
FEB. 22, 2017	GREG MERTZ, NPS – <i>Shiloh: Attack at Daylight and Whip Them</i>
MAR. 22, 2017	FRED RAY – <i>Sharpshooter: Eugene Blackford, CSA</i>
APR. 26, 2017	TERESA ROANE – <i>Minorities in the Confederate Army</i>
MAY 24, 2017	PATRICK A. SCHROEDER, NPS - <i>Pardons and the Amnesty Oath/Oath of Allegiance of Confederate Soldiers</i>

\*JUNE 21, 2017 SHANNON. PRITCHARD – Collecting the Confederacy

(\*This date occurs on the 3rd Wednesday of the month of June)

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### **RVCWRT History Alert Program**

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service to all RVCWRT members notifying his many subscribers about upcoming local history events in and around the Fredericksburg area. This is done via his subscribers recorded e-mail address, concerning upcoming history-related events. To receive Alan's important messages just send an e-mail to Alan Zirkle @ [az@azirkle.com](mailto:az@azirkle.com).

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### **Andersonville Prison AKA Camp Sumter**

By Jim Smithfield

#### **Major Henry Wirz**

While there were certainly other Swiss born Confederates, none were as infamous or were they responsible for the many horrible deaths of so many Federal soldiers, as was Major Henry Wirz, CSA! The final *Tally Book* on Wirz shows that nearly 13,000 POW's out of over 45,000 POW's who came through the camp, died while under his care.

#### **A typical survivor of Andersonville**



Camp Sumter AKA Andersonville Prison, located near Anderson, Georgia, opened in April 1864. This compound had never been meant to hold the very large number of Federal Prisoners of War sent there. A Commander was needed, to take control of the situation and the Confederacy felt they had just the man for the job, Major Henry Wirz, a Swiss born Confederate officer.

While there were certainly other Swiss born Confederates, none were as infamous, nor would they be responsible for the death of so very many Federal soldiers, as was Major Henry Wirz, CSA! The final *Tally Book* on Wirz shows that nearly 13,000

men out of a total of 45,000 Union Prisoners of War directly under his care and command died after being placed into and under his care.

The outrageous number of deaths caused by Major Wirz's direct orders and his rules, does not nearly reflect the thousands of lives that Wirz effectively ruined while they were under his direct command. After all, Major Henry Wirz was the Commander of the Confederate Prisoner of War encampment, officially titled Camp Sumter. It was the duty of Wirz to, at the very least, treat his prisoners of war as human beings. Wirz's trial and his subsequent death by hanging could never erase the lasting memory of the prison camp that we today remember only as Andersonville Prison.

**In researching this article I found the following:  
“A Documented Statement of a Survivor.”**

*“As we entered the place, a spectacle met our eyes that almost froze our blood with horror and made our hearts fail within us. Before us were forms that had once been active erect: stalwart men, now nothing, but walking skeletons, covered with filth and vermin. Many of our men, in the heat and intensity of their feelings, exclaimed with earnestness. “Can this be Hell?” “God protect us and all thought that he alone could bring them out alive from so terrible a place. In the center of the whole was a swamp, occupying about three or four acres of the narrowed limits, and a part of this marshy place had been used by the prisoners as a sink, and excrement covered the ground, the scent arising from which was suffocating. The ground allotted to our ninety was near to this plaque-spot, and how we were to live through the warm summer weather in the midst of such fearful surroundings was more that we cared to think of just then.”*

**A short bio on Andersonville and Heinrich Hartman Wirz AKA Major Henry Wirz**

The Confederate government established Camp Sumter in February of 1864, as a large military prisoner of war camp. It was to be built near the small railroad depot town of Anderson (ville), Georgia. It was being established to house the ever growing number of Federal POW's. Wirz took command of Camp Sumter in April 1864, where he remained for over one full year. Shortly before the Civil War ended, Wirz was promoted to the rank of Major. Though wooden barracks had been originally planned, the Confederates incarcerated their prisoners in a vast, rectangular, open-air stockade. Originally, this was encompassing sixteen and one half acres, which had been intended only as a temporary prison, pending the normal exchanges of prisoners with the north. It was the prisoners themselves that gave the camp the name “Andersonville.” The overall prison suffered from an extreme lack of food, tools, necessary medical supplies, severe overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions and a complete lack of potable water.

Wirz would greet the new arrivals to “his” camp brandishing a pistol, cursing at the new arrivals in his very heavily accented English. He threatened to shoot them personally if they attempted to escape or if they broke any of his many camp rules! This, coupled with the extremely harsh discipline Wirz imposed on the prisoners, which included ball and chaining them for even the most minor of infractions, this made him hated by all of those men confined within Andersonville.

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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 individuals, \$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 Meetings:	Bob Jones	Webmaster:	Dan Augustine
<i>Vice President:</i>	John Sapanara	Membership:	Ryan Quint
Secretary:	Mike Burns	Research and Historian:	Joyce Darr
Treasurer:	Bob Pfile	Member at Large:	John Griffiths
Assistant Treasurer:	Barbara Stafford	Member at Large:	Conway Richardson
Meeting Scribe:	Greg Mertz	Member at Large:	Paul Stier
Newsletter Editor:	Jim Smithfield	Past President:	Marc Thompson

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