



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
June 2023, Volume 20, Issue 6

Speaker: Brad Gottfried
Topic: "Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Army of Northern Virginia's Two Invasions"
When: Monday June 12, 2023
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

Brad Gottfried "Lee Invades the North: A Comparison of the Army of Northern Virginia's Two Invasions"

Brad Gottfried was born and raised in Philadelphia and after receiving his Ph.D. in Zoology, he embarked on a 40-year career in higher education. He retired in 2017 as the President of the College of Southern Maryland. He has written 18 books and numerous magazine articles pertaining to the Civil War.

Although perhaps best known for his campaign “map books,” he has also written on Gettysburg, the Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp, and the Hope Antietam paintings. Brad is an Antietam Certified Battlefield Guide and a Gettysburg Licensed Town Guide. He is married to his wife, Linda, and they have four children and four grandchildren.

Robert E. Lee embarked on two major invasions of the north in 1862 and 1863 that culminated in the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg. While each has been extensively studied, there have been few (to none) comprehensive comparisons of the two. In this presentation, Brad Gottfried will compare and contrast the two campaigns that began with such promise for the Army of Northern Virginia. The presentation will cover the political climate, war effort, the armies, leadership, military intelligence, routes to the battlefield, preliminary encounters, battlefield terrain, the battles, and post-campaign events.

“Edward ‘Allegheny’ Johnson”

by Gregg Clemmer

A Review of the May 2023 Program by Greg Mertz

When our speaker, Gregg Clemmer, finished writing his book on the Confederate Medal of Honor recipients, he had the feeling that something was missing. What he realized he needed was a forward to the book from someone who could make sure that readers of his book on heroic acts would not reach the conclusion that war should be glorified or envied. Gregg’s friend and Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Tom Kelly, wrote the forward. Kelly felt that it was the veterans themselves from both sides in the Civil War who started to bring us back together after the fighting had ended.

Clemmer next wanted to write about something that had not been covered by another author, and considered a biography of Edward “Allegheny” Johnson. He was a fresh subject who had all but been forgotten; even the cemetery in which he was buried, lost his grave. (Clemmer speculates that a fire that swept through section O of Richmond’s Hollywood Cemetery, may have burned a wooden marker that could have been the only means of identifying the grave.) Historians in the Civil War field advised Gregg that

Johnson was a dull figure, with no known caches of letters, and no descendants to track down for treasured documents.

Yet Johnson offered a level of intrigue. Though Johnson's superior in the May 8, 1862 Battle of McDowell, Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, received credit for the victory, a May 16 Richmond Inquirer pointed out that the troops engaged were actually from Johnson's Army of the Northwest. And Johnson fought in two of army commander Robert E. Lee's bloodiest battles – the Culp's Hill portion of the Gettysburg battlefield, and at the apex of the Muleshoe near Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle.

Clemmer found that every career army officer leaves a paper trail. People who crossed paths with Johnson left observations, including characterizations about his ears – such as how he worked his ears like a mule or tried to brush flies off of the back of his head with his ears. Johnson had a plethora of nicknames, most notably related to him being at Camp "Allegheny" in a December 1861 engagement and of his penchant for using a cane or "club." Clemmer also found two different caches of letters written by Johnson, 90% of which were written to young ladies. Johnson was fond of gossiping with women half his age.

Among the documents pertaining to Johnson's pre-Civil War career, was his investigation of the August 19, 1854 massacre of young West Point graduate 2nd Lieut. John Grattan. After the Indians stole a cow from a group of migrating Mormons near Fort Laramie, Grattan was sent to negotiate with the Indians and the entire party of some 30 Federal soldiers were killed. Johnson's findings proved to be critical of the U.S. policy that resulted in an inexperienced and overconfident officer with contempt for the Indians so naively walking into such a volatile situation. U.S. Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, was furious with Johnson's accusations. Clemmer wondered whether this conflict with the future Confederate president contributed to Johnson beginning the Civil War as colonel of the 12th Georgia rather than holding a more responsible position and an assignment more commensurate with his experience.

Johnson was a Mexican War hero, who was given a pair of swords – one from the Commonwealth of Virginia as well as a second from Chesterfield County. Winfield Scott singled out Johnson as someone who despite being ill, distinguished himself in action.

After the Civil War battle of McDowell, Jackson recommended Johnson for promotion to major general, though Johnson's wounds kept him out of action for a year -- until the Gettysburg Campaign. Johnson's service with the Army of Northern Virginia was for almost exactly a year, ending when he was captured at Spotsylvania Court House. The early morning fight on May 12, 1864 with Johnson striking at the enemy with his club, is by far Johnson's most prominent incident of the war. Johnson met up with his friend Federal Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock as he was escorted to the Federal rear and to prison camp.

Once exchanged, Johnson saw service in the Army of Tennessee, with his command being among the last troops to advance in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. One described Johnson's dusk assault to be the most gallant feat that he had witnessed during the war. Franklin was Johnson's last battle, as he was captured again.

Johnson survived the war only a short time. He died of a stroke on March 2, 1873. The Virginia General Assembly adjourned in Johnson's honor. His remains laid in repose with his two Mexican War presentation swords across his chest. Artillerist William P. Carter eulogized Johnson this way: "No bolder soldier ever donned the Southern gray, or followed the storm-tossed colors of the immortal Lee."

As had been the case when Clemmer finished writing his book on the Confederate Medals of Honor, so he felt there was still something missing when he completed the Edward Johnson manuscript. Clemmer wanted to figure out what had happened to the swords. He discovered that the Smithsonian Institution had one of them -- the sword presented to Johnson by Chesterfield County. The story behind that sword after Johnson laid in state is a simple but fascinating tale that brought Clemmer's talk full circle.

Johnson was well known for the club that he used, both as a cane for support when walking but also to wave as a symbol of leadership, as well as to strike enemy soldiers with as a weapon. Johnson used his club in much the same way that most officers used their swords, and indeed he did not even carry an edged weapon. When Johnson surrendered to Hancock at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, he had no sword to tender to Hancock, as would be the tradition. So, Johnson wanted one of his presentation swords to go to Hancock, and that is the provenience of the sword held at the Smithsonian.

Clemmer could not help but remember what his friend. Capt. Tom Kelly, had indicated about the Civil War veterans on the opposing sides being the first to start the healing process that would bring the country back together. Edward “Allegheny” Johnson had made just such a gesture in taking a step to unite the country when he gave Winfield Scott Hancock one of his most prized possessions.

160th Anniversary of the Battle of Brandy Station

Battle of Brandy Station 160th anniversary commemoration will take part on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 9-11. Round Table members would enjoy a talk by Dr. Gary Gallagher on “What Caused the Civil War?” at 5:30 pm on Saturday, June 10 in the Brandy Station Fire Hall, 19601 Church Rd, Brandy Station, VA 22714. For more information go to visitculperva.com and brandystationfoundation.com

Friends of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

As you know CVBT is a land trust. We focus on purchasing endangered battlefield properties. We do produce a large three-day annual conference, standalone events and need to interpret and maintain our lands, we need help in all of these. In the past, CVBT has had individuals from organizations assist us, and we are grateful, but now we would like to create an official volunteer group who would enjoy being part of CVBT’s volunteer core.

We have created “**The Friends of CVBT.**” The intent is for this all-volunteer group is to be the “On Call” core of CVBT’s volunteer group assisting in events and battlefield related needs. Active volunteer members will have the unique opportunity to be involved with events hosted by nationally acclaimed historians, assist in tours, and work on preserved battlefields. Participating volunteers will also be enrolled in the membership ranks of CVBT every year they contribute. CVBT will provide each volunteer with a CVBT volunteer staff shirt and CVBT official hat to wear at events or whenever wanted. We will be limiting this new group to 18 volunteers.

CVBT is now beginning our 27th year of preserving our local battlefields, the very battlefields you study and walk upon. We would be honored to have you join the ranks of CVBT volunteers to help us further our mission of preserving our Nation's history.

If interested please email our Executive Director **Terry Rensel** at executivedirector@cvbt.org .

Office: 540-374-0900

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG (CWRTF)

CWRTF meets 9 times a year on designated Wednesdays at Mary Washington Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street. They offer a buffet dinner followed by a Civil War-themed presentation. Reservations are required. Speaker/topic schedule can be found on their website at www.cwrtof.org, as well as below. As with our round table, things are subject to change due to the ups and downs of Covid.

CWRTF Schedule

May 24, 2023 - Stephen Cushman, THE GENERAL'S CIVIL WAR: WHAT THEIR MEMOIRS CAN TEACH US TODAY

June 21, 2023 - Paul Brueske, THE LAST SIEGE - 1865 MOBILE CAMPAIGN

September 27, 2023 - John Vagnetti, THE CIVIL WAR, A POSTAL SYSTEM DIVIDED

October 25, 2023 - Sarah Kay Bierle, THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

November 15, 2023 - Ken Rutherford, AMERICA'S BURIED HISTORY: LANDMINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

March 27, 2024 - Christian Keller, SOUTHERN STRATEGIES

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. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Students are free. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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