



MASON-DIXON LEDGER

Newsletter of the West Virginia Mason-Dixon Round Table
Morgantown, West Virginia

645 Sylvan Place
Morgantown, WV 26505

Volume XXIV, Issue 4

April 2025

Our Next Meetings

(i) *Fighting Disease and Patching Wounds: Medical Service During the Civil War*

Technically not *our* next meeting, the all-day symposium is sponsored by our sister organization, the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, and is to be held at **Davis and Elkins College** in Elkins on **April 5th**. Besides four outstanding speakers, including our president Matt Lively, there will be displays of rare and unique Civil War medical items and book sellers. For details, see the flyer later in this newsletter. We hope to see you there.

(ii) *Annual Social*

Our thanks to Steve and Laura Walker for offering to hold our gala event at his office, for the second time this year. Members will recall that the first occasion was postponed due to the cold snap in January. The social will now occur at the time of our regular meeting, to wit, **April 15th**, at **148 Fayette Street, in Morgantown WV**. Come to soothe the vicissitudes of Tax Day. Contact President Matt Lively for details.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual dues remain at \$30 for an individual membership and \$50 for a family, at least for now. Please renew your membership for 2025. Please include the following information: Name, Address, City, State, Zip, and Email address. Please communicate this information with your dues to our Treasurer:

Clarke Ridgway
4009 Morningside Way
Morgantown WV 26505



Where We'll Meet

We will meet twice in April, once on the 5th for the all-day symposium at Elkins, then on the 15th at Steve Walker's office for the postponed Annual Social.

Meetings will resume in May at our usual site, Suncrest United Methodist Church, 479 Van Voorhis Road, Old Drummond Chapel. We are requested not to park in numbered slots of the church parking lot. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m., with the Executive Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

As always, keep an eye out for additions and/or changes!

Plan to renew at the upcoming meeting. As always, guests and Civil War enthusiasts are welcome to our meetings, regardless of membership status. Interested students are automatically included as members free of charge.



OUR LAST MEETING

Kristen Bailey

Facilitator: The Role of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the Formation of West Virginia.

March 18, 2025

The important role that the B&O Railroad played during the Civil War and in the formation of West Virginia was illustrated and exemplified by our speaker by a series of events. Prior to the Civil War, running a B&O route through Virginia was resisted by the government. But Henry Clay insisted that transportation was necessary for the whole country. Free states had 400 miles of railroad, as compared to 141 for slave states; hence it was important that progress be on a national, not sectional, basis. Peter van Winkle arranged for the terminus in Parkersburg and was named to head the North Western Virginia Railroad, basically a spur of the main B&O. At the onset of the Civil War, the B&O seemed set to become a major carrier. But the chief executive, John Work Garrett, was known to lean towards the South. However, prior to Fort Sumpter, he assured President

Lincoln that the railroad could transport men and supplies through Baltimore. In 1861, 42% of the war took place in Virginia, and the B&O was now basically subservient to the government. However, in May 25, 1861, railroad bridges were burned by secessionists led by William J. Willey, who clearly did not share the sentiments of his half-brother Waitman. This led to the movement of troops under the command of Colonel Kelley to secure the railroad, but at the cost of taking soldiers away from the offensive. Young General McClellan's consequent proclamation promised protection of the railroad. But shortly thereafter, Stonewall Jackson seized the Martinsburg Roundhouse and destroyed railroad cars and telegraph lines there. As guerilla activities around the railroad continued to take up the attention of troops that could be used elsewhere, a frustrated Kelley required people to take a loyalty oath or get arrested. After the statehood of West Virginia was announced, there were debates as to which counties should be part of the new state. Berkeley County was included in West Virginia because of the presence of the B&O rail line through that county. As a final nod to the importance of the B&O Railroad to the state, our speaker showed the reverse of the official state seal. There, between the mountains, the livestock and the manufacturing facilities, lies Baltimore and Ohio Railroad stock crossing the Trey Run Viaduct.

ELECTIONS

During the November meeting, the Nominating Committee put forward the slate shown below of officers for the next year. No additional nominations were received from the floor then, and none were received by Returning Officer Lou Dadyburjor before the election scheduled for the January Social. As the social was cancelled, the election took place at the February meeting, in the absence of your editor. We understand that the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee was elected:

President – Matt Lively;
Vice President – Bruce Anderson;
Secretary – John Fredrick;
Executive Board Members-at-Large – Joan Gibson, Kaden Statler.

As noted earlier, among the remaining office bearers, Treasurer Clarke Ridgway is serving the final year of his two-year term. We further understand that Dady Dadyburjor, Matt Lively and Rick Wolfe were re-appointed to the positions of Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, and Meeting Chair among the first acts of the new Executive Committee.

MORE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Last year's July picnic was moved from the previous location at Joan Gibson's estate to the Mason-Dixon Park in Core. The question was raised as to whether it should repeat there, or return to Morgantown. The executive committee not being able to decide the matter, it was decided to put it to a vote of the membership. Please send your email vote to Matt Lively (livelymw@msn.com) by April 1.

NEARBY CONFERENCES

FROM THE CIVIL WAR INSTITUTE AT GETTYSBURG COLLEGE
The Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College would like to offer the members of your Civil War Round table or organization a **15% discount** to attend the 2025 CWI summer conference, June 13-18. You can explore further details about our conference on our [website](#), as well as check out [our schedule for this year's event](#). At CWI, we believe in the mission of CWRTs and we are making this special offer to recognize the efforts of your organization in promoting the study of Civil War history. *[Ed: The last time that I checked these links, they were to the 2023 conference. I have emailed the sender – maybe they will fix the problem before you get this.]*

FROM THE CWRT CONGRESS

CWRT Congress Speaker Series

Special events are all scheduled on Fridays. Register for any of these at <https://www.cwrtcongress.org/events.html>

April 2025 Speakers

Gene Schmiel, THE CIVIL WAR IN STATUARY HALL, Friday, April 4 at 7pm. Statuary Hall was created during the Civil War to fill the space left by the House of Representatives when it moved to its current chambers. The year before, the "Statue of Freedom" was emplaced atop the Capitol Dome. Justin Morrill's legislation invited each state to honor two of its citizens by providing representative statues. The first statue was placed in 1870 by Rhode Island celebrating Revolutionary War Hero Nathaniel Greene. Until 2003, all but one of

the original statues (William Jennings Bryan's of Nebraska, emplaced in 1937, was replaced in 2019 by Indian chief Standing Bear), were undisturbed in place. However, the dawn of the 21st century and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War brought renewed attention to the issue.

W. Clifford Roberts, Jr. & Matthew A.M. Locke, HOLDING CHARLESTON BY THE BRIDLE: CASTLE PINCKNEY & THE CIVIL WAR, Friday April 11, at 7pm. *Holding Charleston by the Bridle* is the first book on the subject, from the fort's innovative design as part of America's "Second System" of coastal fortifications to the modern challenges of preserving its weathered brick walls against rising sea levels. Defending the fort was one of Winfield Scott's major concerns during the Nullification Crisis of 1832. In 1860, Major Robert Anderson knew the fort was the key to protecting his small Federal garrison at Fort Moultrie, but his requests to Washington for troops to hold the Castle went unheeded. That December, three companies of Charleston militia scaled and seized the fort in a daring act that pushed the nation to the edge of civil war.

Bradley M Gottfried, THE MAPS OF SECOND BULL RUN, Friday April 18 at 7pm. Gottfried's maps plow new ground by breaking down the entire campaign into multiple cartographic sections that displays the regimental and battery levels. They include the march to and from the battlefields and virtually every significant event in between. This allows the audience to easily understand the sequence of events and the challenges facing leaders on the field all while enhancing the appreciation of how the Confederates were able to strategically control the outcome of the battle. Mr. Gottfried will explain how he developed the expertise, why he chose to depict each map section, and how he brought them all together for a cogent visualization of the campaign.

May 2025 Speakers

Jonathan Lande, FREEDOM SOLDIERS: THE EMANCI[PATION OF BLACK SOLDIERS IN CIVIL WAR CAMPS, COURTS AND PRISONS, Friday, May 16 at 7pm. The men examined in Freedom Soldiers took self-granted breaks--"leaves of freedom"--and, once caught, were tried by the US Army for the military crime of "desertion." In the courts-martial, they justified their unauthorized departures by telling authorities that they left to temporarily help their families, regain their health, and evade violent officers. Army judges nevertheless convicted freedom seekers, sending most to military prisons.

June 2025 Speakers

Michael C. Hardy, FEEDING THE ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA, Friday June 6th at 7pm. Although seldom studied, food (or the lack thereof) and the logistics behind it played a critical role during the war, contributed mightily to the success and failure of campaigns, and affected the overall outcome of the conflict. Understanding how soldiers prepared their food, how they ate and, very often, went hungry, is a vital tool to understanding their individual experiences and the larger history of supply and logistics within the Confederate army. Michael Hardy bases his unique study on more than 300 sets of letters and diaries that closely examine the importance of sustenance in the day-to-day life of the soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia.

Jeffrey Boutwell, BOUTWELL: RADICAL REPUBLICAN & CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY, Friday June 27 at 7pm. Jeffrey Boutwell tells the life story of an important public figure, George Sewall Boutwell, who had a seven-decade career in public life and a commitment to racial equality, economic equity, and the principled use of American power abroad. Boutwell was at the center of efforts to abolish slavery, establish the Republican Party, assist President Lincoln in funding the Union war effort, facilitate Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, impeach President Andrew Johnson, and frame and enact the 14th and 15th civil amendments. He helped lay the foundations of the modern American economy with President Grant, investigated white terrorism in Mississippi in the 1870s, and opposed American imperialism following the Spanish-American War.

August 2025 Speakers

Alys D. Beverton, EXCEPTIONALISM IN CRISIS: FACTION, ANARCHY AND MEXICO IN THE U.S. IMAGINATION DURING THE CIVIL WAR ERA, Friday August 8th at 7pm. Before 1861, Americans could confidently claim to belong to the New World's "exceptional" republic, unlike other self-governing nations such as Mexico. The outbreak of the Civil War exploded this illusion by showing that the United States was in fact not immune to domestic political instability. Alys D. Beverton examines Mexico's place in the US imagination during the Civil War and postbellum period. Beverton reveals how pro- and antiwar Confederates and Unionists alike used Mexico's long history of political strife to alternately justify and oppose the Civil War and, after 1865, various policies aimed at reuniting the states. Both sides used Mexico as a cautionary tale of how easily a nation, even the so-called exceptional United States, could slip into anarchy in the tumultuous nineteenth century.

(Fr) Robert Miller, FAITH OF THE FATHERS: A COMPREHENSIVE HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE CIVIL WAR, Friday, August 15th at 7pm. *Faith of the Fathers* brings to light the forgotten stories of courageous chaplains whose commitments to faith and to men at war during America's most divisive conflict have long been overlooked. The Reverend Robert J. Miller provides a comprehensive and compelling portrait of the 126 priest-chaplains who served during the Civil War and reflects on the importance of religion and faith in nineteenth-century America. As a culture of death and horror raged around them, Catholic priest-chaplains met the needs of soldiers and officers alike, providing years of faithful and dedicated service in hospitals, prisons, battlefields, and camps.

Gregory A. Mertz, ATTACK AT DAYLIGHT AND WHIP THEM: THE BATTLE OF SHILOH, APRIL 6-7, 1862, Friday August 22nd at 7pm. "Attack at daylight and whip them" was the Confederate plan on the morning of April 6, 1862. U. S. Grant's unsuspecting Union Army of the Tennessee had gathered on the banks of its namesake river at a spot called Pittsburg Landing, ready to strike deep into the heart of Albert Sidney Johnston's Confederates. Johnston's troops were reeling from setbacks earlier in the year and had decided to reverse their fortunes by taking the fight to the Federals. And yet, after a day of furious fighting, the once CSA battle plan became Grant's plan. A gripping story told by a historian who grew up on this very battlefield.

September 2025 Speakers

Endres & Kurtz, SOLDIERS OF THE CROSS: THE HEROISM OF CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS & SISTERS IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, Friday September 5th, at 7pm. Shortly after the Civil War ended, journalist David Power Conyngham began compiling the stories of Catholic chaplains and nuns who served during the war. His manuscript, *Soldiers of the Cross*, is the fullest record written during the nineteenth century of the Church's involvement in the war, as it documents the service of fourteen chaplains and six female religious communities, representing both North and South. His study contains new insights into the clergy during the war that are unavailable elsewhere, either during his time or ours, making the work invaluable.

Larry A. McClellan, ONWARD TO CHICAGO: FREEDOM SEEKERS AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN MORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS, Friday, September 19th at 7pm. Decades before the Civil War, Illinois's status as a free state beckoned enslaved people, particularly those in Kentucky and Missouri, to cross porous river borders and travel toward new lives. While traditional histories of the Underground Railroad in Illinois start in 1839 and focus largely on the

romanticized tales of white men, Larry A. McClellan reframes the story, not only introducing readers to earlier freedom seekers, but also illustrating that those who bravely aided them were Black and white, men and women.

October 2025 Speakers

Ross Heller, BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN: HIS 1858 TIME CAPSULE, Friday October 3rd at 7pm. Author/Historian Ross Heller discusses the book he edited, *By Abraham Lincoln: His 1858 Time Capsule*. In 1858, Abraham Lincoln casually created a time capsule for posterity in the form of a 3.25" x 5-7/8" scuffed, brown-black, notebook given as a campaign aid to a long-time friend and legislative candidate, James N. Brown. A facsimile was printed in 1901. For the first time, and with an introduction by Harold Holzer, editor Ross Heller brings us the contents of the 1858 notebook as well as the fascinating story of its 164-year journey.

Curt Fields, UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER GRANT, Friday October 10th at 7pm. Grant came from humble beginnings along the Ohio River, made a military name for himself near that river's confluence with the Mississippi, and went on to use "the Father of Waters" to split the Confederacy in two. That effort set him on the road to Chattanooga, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, the long siege of Petersburg, and Appomattox Court House in some of the war's most intense and infamous battles. In less than three years, he rose to become the highest-ranking officer in the U. S. Army.

James Marten, THE SIXTH WISCONSIN AND THE LONG WAR: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A REGIMENT, Friday October 17th at 7pm. James Marten engagingly presents the story of the war and its aftermath through the lens of the Sixth Wisconsin, one of the core units of the famed Iron Brigade. Organized in July 1861 and mustered out in the summer of 1865, the 6th played major roles at Second Manassas, Antietam, Gettysburg, and in the Overland campaign of 1864. But the regiment's full history is found in the stories of its men learning to fight and endure far from home amid violence, illness, and death. It is also told through the lives of families that hung on every word in letters and news from the front lines. Those stories also unfolded long after the war's end, as veterans sought to make sense of their experiences and home communities struggled to care for those who returned with unhealed wounds.

The Calling Card



The monthly e-newsletter of the
Society for Women and the Civil War
<http://www.swcw.org>

Woman of the Month

Kady Brownell
Vivandiere

The life of Kady Southwell Brownell sounds very much like a Victorian romance novel, which perhaps explains why she is much better known and documented than many other 19th century women. That, and the fact that Kady actively sought fame, and her publicity photographs survive to prop up her narrative.

Kady Southwell is said to have been born near a battlefield in South Africa in 1842, the daughter of a colonel in the British Army and his

unnamed wife. Kady's mother died shortly after she was born, so her father entrusted the infant to his friends, the McKenzie's. This family then moved to Rhode Island at some point prior to 1860, taking Kady with them.

Nothing is known of Kady's childhood, other than she received some education, as she was literate. In the 1860 census, Kady is recorded as boarding with the Rodman family in Central Falls, Rhode Island and working as a weaver in a textile mill. There she met Robert Brownell, a millwright. They married in 1861.



When Robert enlisted in the 1st Rhode Island Infantry, a 90-day unit, Kady accompanied him to serve as a vivandiere, or "Daughter of the Regiment." She was her regiment's color bearer at the Battle of 1st Manassas, then worked as a nurse in its aftermath. After their initial enlistment expired, Robert and Kady reenlisted in the 5th Rhode Island Infantry.

According to Dr. Elizabeth Leonard in her book *All the Daring of the Soldier: Women of the Civil War Armies*, Kady was a life-saving heroine at the Battle of New Bern in 1862: "Just as a number of Union regiments were getting into their battle positions on the morning of March 14, members of the 5th Rhode Island came out of a clump of woods from an unexpected direction, giving the appearance that they

might be a disguised rebel force preparing to attack. Realizing that a misunderstanding might lead the regiments already in line to open fire, and with no fear for her own safety, tradition has it that Brownell, who had moved to the rear as ordered, ran forward into clear view of those already in place, carrying her regiment's flag and waving it wildly until the 5th Rhode Island soldiers' identity became clear to surrounding regiments."

Robert was badly wounded during the battle and received a medical discharge. He and Kady returned to Rhode Island, but in the post-war years, the couple moved to Connecticut and later to New York City. Robert worked a number of occupations -- millwright, carpenter, and building custodian -- while Kady became a celebrity.

In 1866, Frank Moore's influential *Women of the War* was published, and included a chapter on Kady, lauding her exploits at New Bern. Capitalizing on the attention she received from the publication, Kady pursued a career on the stage. Her best-known performance was a tableau entitled "Our Female Volunteer," which highlighted her war experiences. The photographs of Kady in a Zouave uniform were publicity shots taken during her stage career.



Robert and Kady both joined the Elias Howe, Jr. Post #3 of the Grand Army of the Republic in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1870. (A number of internet articles erroneously state she was the "only woman" to belong to the GAR. At least one other woman, Union soldier Sarah Emma Edmonds, was also a GAR member in good standing.) In 1882, Kady petitioned Congress for a military pension and received it through a special act.

By the turn of the century, Kady's stage career was long over, and she and Robert supported themselves with their pensions and employment with the New York City Parks Department. Kady worked as a custodian at the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Newspapers reported that she was an annual fixture in her Zouave costume at the city's Decoration Day parade.

Kady died on January 5, 1915, at the Women's Relief Home in Oxford, New York, and was buried in the North Burial Ground in Providence, Rhode Island.

-- DeAnne Blanton

Fighting Disease and Patching Wounds: Medical Service During the Civil War

Davis and Elkins College &
The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation Present
A Civil War Symposium



Saturday April 5, 2025
At Davis and Elkins College Senate Commons
in the Myles Center for the Arts

9:00 am: Registration and Refreshments

10:00 am: "The Union Civil War Hospitals of West Virginia"-- Christy Perry Tuohey

11:00 am: "Illness and Death in the Department of West Virginia"- Dr. Mathew Lively

12:00 pm: Lunch Break – Lunch provided on site.

1:00 pm: "A Revolution on Four Wheels: The Ambulance in the Civil War" – Dana Shoaf

2:00 pm: "Maria Fontaine's Odyssey: Typhoid, Measles and Mud."– Hunter Lesser

3:00 pm: Panel Discussion



Symposium Tickets:

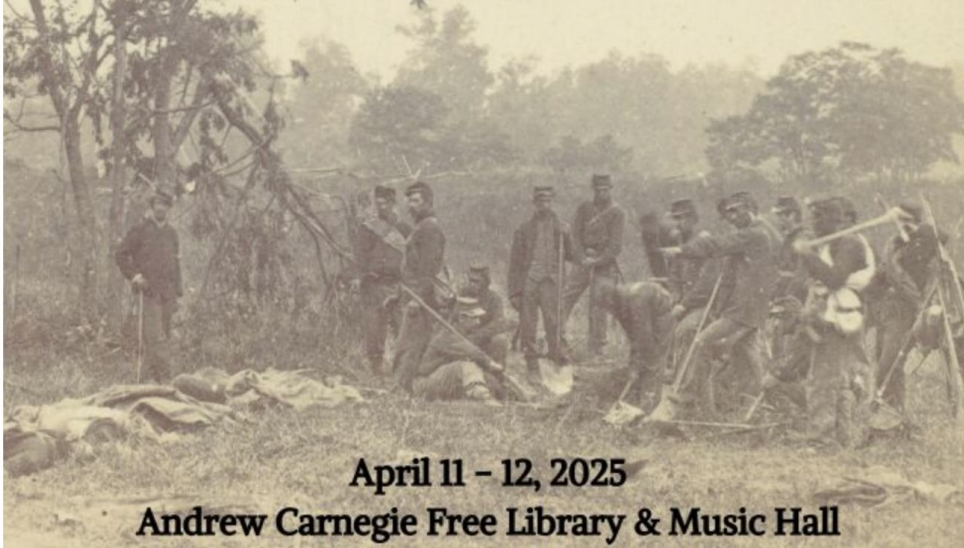
General Admission: \$35, lunch included

Students with ID: Free, lunch ticket available for \$15.

For information and reservations visit
beverlyheritagecenter.org/civil-war-symposium-2025/
scan this QR code
or call 304-637-7424

“Our Battle Flags Were Tattered...”

The Maryland Campaign: A Civil War Symposium



April 11 - 12, 2025

Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall

Mason-Dixon Ledger

Visit us at wvmasondixoncwrt.org

And on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Mason-Dixon-Civil-War-Roundtable-1214529622048020/>

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