

IN MEMORY OF

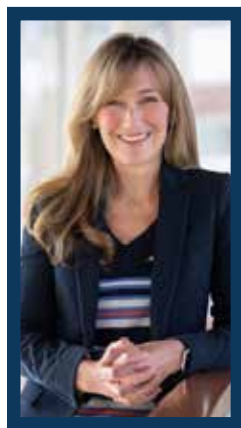
David Bailey



MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

Meeting Date: Monday, March 17th, 2025

Social Time: 5:30 PM | **Dinner:** 6:00 PM | **Presentation:** 7:00 PM | **Address:** 1801 Newtown Pike



Caroline E. Janney is the John L. Nau III Professor of the American Civil War and Director of the John L. Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia. A graduate of the University of Virginia, she worked as a historian for the National Park Service and taught at Purdue University before returning to Virginia in 2018.

An active public lecturer, she has given presentations at locations across the globe. She is a speaker with the Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lectureship program and has appeared on numerous television programs including the History Channel's Grant and Lincoln. She serves as a co-editor of the University of North Carolina Press's *Civil War America Series* and is the past president of the Society of Civil War Historians. She has published nine books, including *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation* (2013) and *Ends of War: The Fight of Lee's Army after Appomattox*, winner of the 2022 Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize. This spring UNC Press will release *The Second Manassas Campaign*.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to the Members of the Kentucky Civil War Roundtable. Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Prosperous 2025! After November's wonderful meeting featuring "General Grant", we are now honored to welcome Dr. Caroline Janney, a distinguished professor and writer of Civil War history at the University of Virginia. Dr. Janney will present to the Round Table the story of Lee's army after the surrender at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia. It is a story that has never been told. That story was the subject of her marvelous book, "The Ends of War," a book that has won numerous awards, including the Lincoln Prize.

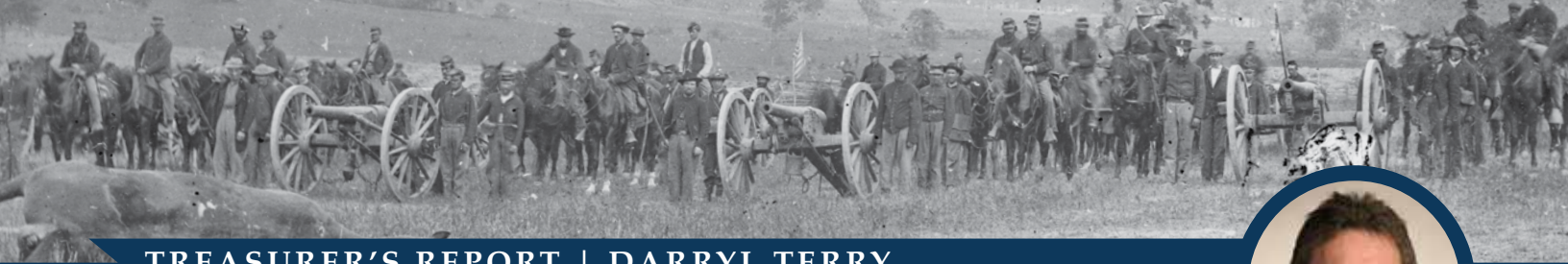
I know each and every one of our Round Table attendees will not only enjoy her lecture but will also take home a new understanding of what Lee's troops endured as they returned to their homes in a country that remained divided.

All the best,

Kent Masterson Brown

PRESIDENT





TREASURER'S REPORT | DARRYL TERRY



Your Roundtable has had a strong fiscal year and projects to finish out 2025 with a solid foundation. Many thanks for your contributions as Basic, Supporting and Sustaining memberships. We ended January with cash on hand totaling \$48,792. Our annual expenses budget is \$34,000.

Totals show a paid membership of 139 units. This consists of Single/Couples dues with the added opportunity to give towards your organization's continued success. To date we show a total of forty-five Supporting membership gifts and Twenty-eight Sustaining gifts. This allows the Roundtable to have a solid base for future programs along with continued educational and social gatherings. Membership fees

staying at the same level with the additional opportunities for giving have allowed the group to raise over \$9,000 in additional operating income.

Please feel free to ask the board members as to any questions on budgeted items. We are all here to support your efforts for the Roundtable. We have a long record of club history covering this period of American history. Thanks for everyone for seeing the need and supporting this great organization. Let us finish off this wonderful year and a "Thank You" to all OUR MEMBERS. ■

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT | SUSIE MORTON



Hello Members! I hope each of you had a wonderful Holiday Season and are looking forward to our upcoming presentation. Here's the news you need to know for the upcoming March 17th meeting:

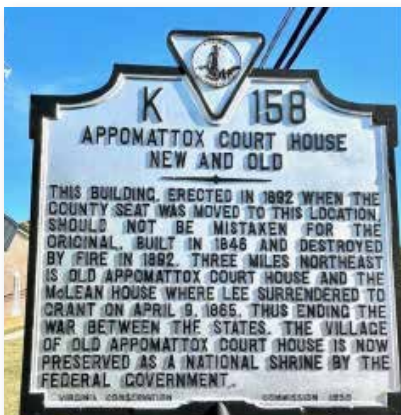
RSVP to me via text, email, phone call, or website before Wednesday, March 12th at 4PM. You will find my contact information in this Newsletter.

When you RSVP, let me know how you want to pay for your meal. Dinner cost is \$33/meal. On the menu for dinner is pork, mashed potatoes and country green beans. Dessert is chocolate cake and cheesecake. If that menu does not suit you remember you can order a vegetarian dinner. Just let me know when you RSVP. Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting. ■

EDITOR'S REPORT | GEORGE RIDINGS



160th Anniversary of Surrender at Appomattox Court House



The westward retreat of the Army of Northern Virginia from Petersburg and Richmond in April 1865 was the final movement by the most famous of the Confederate armies of the war. Robert E. Lee took temporary command of the ANV on June 1, 1862, and remained in command until he met with Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant in Wilmer McLean's home on April 9, 1865, to sign terms of surrender.

The National Park Service will hold special commemorative events at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park from April 7-13 of this year, and you can find details at:

<https://www.nps.gov/apco/planyourvisit/annual-commemoration-of-surrender-and-freedom-day.htm>

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EDITOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

On April 8, Federal Cavalry units reached the Appomattox Station of the South Side Railroad before Confederates could arrive and captured 30 artillery pieces and burned three wagon trains of supplies that Lee and the Confederate Army needed for any hope of continuing their aim of joining the Army of under General Joseph E. Johnston in North Carolina. The American Battlefield Trust recently preserved over 45 acres here.

On the morning of April 9, approximately 9,000 Confederates under General John B. Gordon began the last attack by ANV forces of the war. They captured a Federal artillery battery and pushed back Federal cavalry units, but then discovered infantry units from three Union Corps on the field and blocked their movement further westward, and they were repulsed back towards the village of Appomattox Court House.

General Lee reportedly then said, "There is nothing left me to do but to go and see Gen. Grant, and I would rather die a thousand deaths." Lee rode into the village and met with Grant and signed the terms of surrender.

On April 10, Grant and Lee met for a brief time in a field nearby and 3 Generals from each side served as commissioners to work out the details and logistics of surrender and supplies to support the Confederates, who had been on the run with little provisions for a week.

On April 11, the Confederate Artillery surrender took place, whereby 61 cannons were given over to Federal forces, and 2,576 personnel signed paroles.

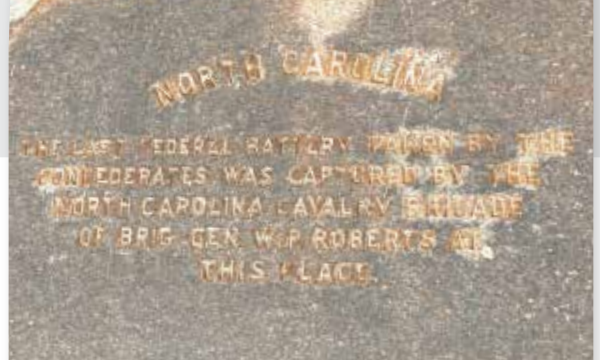
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Captain Samuel Washington Paxton, 52nd Virginia Infantry

The Last Charge and the Last to Surrender - Honor and Bravery

On the morning of April 9th, 1865, though he had been wounded in the thigh on March 25th at Fort Steadman just over 2 weeks earlier, Captain Samuel Washington Paxton led the remnants of the 52nd Virginia Infantry in the last battle of the Army of Northern Virginia. Paxton had also been wounded in the right shoulder on May 12th, 1864, at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House.

On April 12th, 1865 Paxton's regiment surrendered a total of 8 officers and 53 enlisted men. The brigade commander Major H. K. Douglas said, "I asked General Gordon to let my brigade - as it had fired the last shot - be the last to stack arms. This he readily granted. ... As my decimated and rugged band with their bullet torn banner marched to its place, someone in the blue line broke the silence and called for three cheers for the last brigade to surrender. ... For us this soldierly generosity was more than we could bear. Many of the grizzled veterans wept like women. ..."



Guns and limbers representing the Confederate Artillery Park of over 60 surrendered guns on April 11, 1865



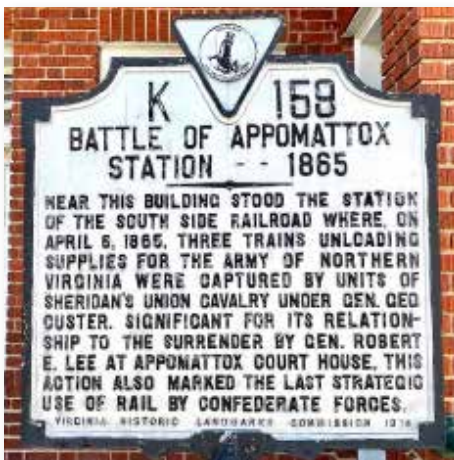
Bridge along modern Route 24, which runs parallel to and is just a few yards away from the 1865 Richmond-Lynchburg Stage Road. Thousands of Confederate Infantrymen marched along this road to stack their arms and colors on April 12, 1865.

RSVP for the March 2025 Meeting **BEFORE** Wednesday, March 12th at 4PM!

EDITOR'S REPORT CONTINUED

On April 12, the Stacking of Arms and Colors Ceremony took place, and then the approximately 22,000 paroled Confederates dispersed. Many Confederate soldiers were casualties over the days on the retreat from the Petersburg lines, but thousands also left the ranks to head home or towards North Carolina to continue the fight with Johnston's Confederate Army.

Following are some images I took at Appomattox in October 2022. I hope you can visit for the first time or visit again soon, and I encourage you to walk all the trails the park has in place to see more than just the McLean House. "Let Us Have Peace" – General Grant. ■



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