

CIVIL WAR LODGE OF RESEARCH #1865 A.F.&A.M.



Chartered
November 14th, 1995

9638 Park Street, Manassas, VA 20110 | (571) 271-2730 | www.cwlr.org | Email: hart.bennett@gmail.com

Worshipful Master's Message

Dear Brothers,

Wow! Is it just me or has the time flown by!? Seems like yesterday I was installed as Master and now, it's almost over! Whew! For starters, I want to thank and praise the efforts of our Secretary, Worshipful Brother Bennett Hart for getting the ball rolling. That's one thing that's been bewildering about serving in the East, it's not easy. There are so many connections to make and do. I'm amazed that things work the way they do! Our fraternity is amazing in how the brothers from various jurisdictions and places work together, sometimes bumpily and yet in the end, "for the good of masonry." It never ceases to amaze me!

I have been juggling church, a 3-week revival, laryngitis (3 times in a row), and the end of the 2024-2025 school year! Whew! Our secretary has taken it upon himself to charge forward. I must say brothers, that the Civil War Lodge of Research has been VERY blessed to have such a capable secretary in Brother Bennett. He deserves the highest praise and thanks for ALL he does! If you're at the meeting, thank him. If you're not, shoot him an email and thank him for all he does. Secretaries are our unsung Masonic heroes to be sure! Masters come and go, but an able secretary can cause the rise or fall of a lodge. As long as Bennett Hart occupies his station, our Lodge should sail smoothly. He is an inspiration to me.

Given that we have changed course a little bit and moved South from Chattanooga into Georgia, another Masonic/Civil War related group I am a part of, The Wool Hat Boys, have started inviting their members to attend our meeting! So, I'm hoping and praying that we will see a great turnout at our July meeting.

Finally, our October meeting we will return to the Old Dominion State. I have secured our meeting place at Richmond Lodge No. 10. A lodge where we've met before and one that has history stretching back long before the War Between the States into the 1700s. Again, let's have an awesome turnout like we did in Charleston, SC where we met on the day and in the city where the War began in 1861.

I thank you for your prayers, support and efforts to make this a great year for me sitting in the East. I pray that as the year concludes we will continue our efforts of letting our Masonic light shine brightly as we show how bright that light did shine during those tumultuous years as war clouds darkened the land. No matter the crisis, Masonry has withstood the test and shone its beneficent rays of brotherly love and friendship. How much it is needed today as well. God Bless you and be safe as we look to the start of summer and head to the great state of Georgia!

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Creighton "Creig" Lee Lovelace, D.D.
Pastor, Danieltown Baptist Church
Worshipful Master

Trestleboard

Itinerary for our July 12th 2025 meeting

Lodging (10-13 July):

Hampton Inn

6875 Battlefield Parkway, Ringgold, GA 30736

\$149 plus taxes each night (Reservations by 1 July)

Call: 706-935-4800. Ask for Civil War Lodge of Research Rooms.

Link: <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink?cityhcn=CHARGHX&groupCode=CHHCWL&arrivaldate=2025-07-10&departuredate=2025-07-13&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Thursday, July 10th

Arrive in Ringgold

Host Lodge: Quitman Lodge No 106, 26 West Street, Ringgold, GA 30736 POC: Tracy Wright – 423-322-5555

1600 – Preliminary Tour of Chickamauga Battlefield (select locations)

Friday, July 11th

0830 – Arrive at Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center (Park Ranger – Jim Odgen will be with us Fri and Sat afternoon)
706-866-9241x116

3370 LaFayette Road, Fort Oglethorpe, GA

1200 – Lunch – Old Post Gym (BBQ)

221 Second St. Ft. Oglethorpe, GA 30742 (\$20ea)

1300 – Resume Chickamauga Tour

~**1600** – Gordon-Lee Mansion

217 Cove Rd, Chickamauga, GA 30307

1830 – Dinner - Jefferson's – Back Room
86 Tennessee St, Ringgold, GA

2000 - Tour Ringgold Gap Battlefield – (Tracy Wright's Brother Jeff) Still Light

~**2100** - Ice Cream Parlor

Saturday, July 12th

0800 – Arrive Quitman Lodge – Coffee / Donuts and set up

0830 – Practice Opening and Voting

1000 – CWLOR Lodge Meeting

1200 – Lunch at Quitman Lodge – Southern Spread
Wreath Laying at War Memorial

1400 – Meet at Lookout Mountain

Point Park Visitor Center (Ranger Ogden)

Drive or take Incline RR (\$20 ride plus \$5 parking) Bring Park Pass
110 Point Park Road, Lookout Mountain, TN
Limited Parking – carpool

1830 – Dinner – Multiple spots – local area – stay tuned

2000 – Cigars for those wishing to participate – Cigars International

2025 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master-	Creighton Lee Lovelace, PM
Senior Warden-	William Chester Hare, Jr
Junior Warden-	Cliton C. White. PM, PD/PDDGM
Treasurer-	Mark Stephen Lentz
Secretary-	Bennett Richard Hart PM
Assistant Secretary-	Creighton Lee Lovelace, PM
Assistant Secretary-	Freddie Edward Pearson II, PM/PDDGM
Senior Deacon-	Christopher Edward Chapman, PM
Junior Deacon-	John August Anderson, PM
Chaplain-	Wayne Eugene Price PM / PDDGM
Tyler-	Gary Lloyd Laing PM
Marshal-	Richard Wayne Burkman PM
Senior Steward	Alan James Hawk
Junior Steward	David Edward Simcox
Ritual-	Wayne Eugene Price PM/PDDGM
Editor-	G. Andrew Martinez PM/PIG

District Deputy Grand Master Jason Curtis "Jake" Trenary



**MOST WORSHIPFUL
GARY DWIGHT HUFFMAN
GRAND MASTER OF MASONS IN VIRGINIA**

Passed to the Celestial Lodge Above

MW William T. Ellison



Call for Officers!

Brethren, if you are interested in serving as a Line Officer for our Civil War Research Lodge for 2026, please drop Brother Secretary (hart.bennett@gmail.com) a note. We will happily get you involved!

Secretary Sez'

It is very important for those attending Chattanooga to let me know soonest if you haven't:

- 1) You will be there ___ Guests: ___;
- 2) Thursday ___ Friday ___ Saturday ___
- 3) Friday Lunch ___ Friday Dinner ___
- 4) Saturday Lunch ___ Saturday Dinner ___

My contact info is above:

Best Fraternal Regards !!!!! See Everyone soon !!

Bennett

(Bring Park Passes – Be prepared to carpool !

PAST MASTERS

(* – deceased)

- 1995 – Allen E. Roberts * (VA)
- 1996 – Keith A. Hinerman (VA)
- 1997 & 1998 – Paul M. Bessel (DC)
- 1999 – David J. Roberts (VA)
- 2000 – Robert E. Schindler, Sr. (VA)*
- 2001 – Michael E. McCabe (NJ)
- 2002 – Charles R. Joseph (MD)*
- 2003 – John Shroeder (VA)*
- 2004 – Lauris M. Eek, III * (VA)
- 2005 – Gary L. Laing, (DE)
- 2006 – Stephen M. Whitaker (SC)
- 2007 – Michael E. McCabe (NJ)*
- 2008 – J. Sherrell Hurley (NC)
- 2009 – Wayne E. Price (VA)
- 2010 – M Phillip Brown (NY & DE)
- 2011 – Raymond "Micky" Moats (VA)
- 2012 & 2013 – Gary L. Lang (DE)
- 2014 – Wayne E. Price (VA)
- 2015 – Peter S. Jensen (VA)
- 2016 – Christopher R. Chrzanowski (VA)
- 2017 & 2018 – Bennett R, Hart (VA)
- 2019 – Richard W. Burkman (MD)
- 2020 & 2021 – G. Andrew Martinez (MD)
- 2022 – Gordon A. Munholland (MD)
- 2023 – Andrew N. Wilson (MD)
- 2024 – John H. Butler (VA)

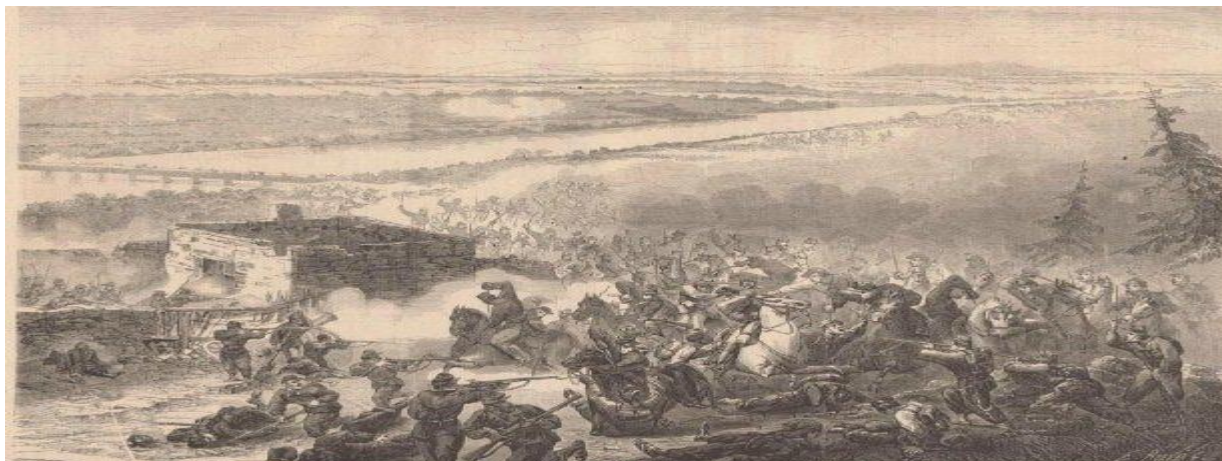
HONORARY MEMBERS

- MW William F. Perdue-VA
- MW Thomas F. May- VA*
- John P. Westervelt - VA
- PPGM James L. Jack - Scotland
- PM Paul M. Bessel – MD*
- PM Allen E. Roberts - VA
- MW Kenneth D. Fuller- DC*
- MW Jules Saul Temper - DC
- MW Gregory A. Riley, Sr. - WV
- MW Kenneth S. Wyvill, Jr.-MD
- MW Herbert Richard Hoffman-DE
- MW George Bernard Dungan, Jr.-VA
- MW James Edward Litten-VA
- MW William Talbott Ellison, Jr.-VA*
- MW Thomas Warren Gregory-NC*
- MW Vernon Stuart Cook-VA
- MW Steven Edward Smith – RI
- MW James Winfield Golladay, Jr.-VA
- MW Louis Richard Youngblood-WV
- Richard Constantino Radi- VA*
- MW Alan Wayne Adkins – VA
- RW Wayne Eugene Price - VA
- RW Raymond "Mickey" Moats - VA
- MW Jack Kayle Lewis – VA
- RW Lokie Leo Voight -VA

Trestleboard Continued

Upcoming Schedule:

- August 29th, 2025 – Winchester, VA (GM Visit to District
- October 11th, 2025 – Richmond, VA (Richmond Lodge No.10)
- December 6th, 2025 – Highland Springs, VA (30 YR, Annual Meeting at Babcock Lodge No. 322 – our Home Lodge!)



The Battle of Front Royal

On May 8, 1862, Confederate Major General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson pursued Union Brigadier General Robert Milroy, towards Franklin, Virginia (now West Virginia) before doubling back to McDowell and Staunton in the Shenandoah Valley. Confederate Major General Richard Ewell’s division, over 8,000 strong, was holding at Swift Run Gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Meanwhile, Union Major General Nathaniel Banks’s forces began departing from Harrisonburg, Virginia, to the Shenandoah, reaching Strasburg, Virginia, on May 13th.

Five days later on May 18th, General Ewell met with Jackson at Mount Solon to discuss plans for dealing with Banks’s forces. Ewell had orders from General Joseph Johnston to leave the Shenandoah for Richmond. After some communication, General Robert E. Lee allowed Ewell to remain with Jackson. Johnston ordered Ewell to prevent General Banks’s troops from meeting up with Major General Irwin McDowell’s 30,000 troops in Fredericksburg, who were scheduled to march south in support of Major General George B. McClellan’s campaign against Richmond.

Arriving at New Market on May 21st, Jackson learned that only a small Union garrison of 1,100 held the town of Front Royal, fifteen miles east of Strasburg. Jackson and Ewell had originally planned to unite at New Market, Virginia, then march north on the Valley Pike to attack General Banks at Strasburg. Jackson decided instead to take his 9,000 men across Massanutten Mountain over the New Market Gap to combine his forces with Ewell’s then attack the Front Royal garrison. Jackson had Colonel Turner Ashby’s 7th Virginia Cavalry turn north on the Valley Pike to feign that the main Confederate movement would come from that direction, while Jackson led his command over Massanutten Mountain.

On May 22nd, Jackson met up with Ewell and together they headed north. By striking at Front Royal, Jackson would successfully separate Banks from McDowell. Banks battle strength was around 8,000 men (with 16 artillery pieces) between his combined forces at Strasburg, Front Royal, and Buckton Station. On May 23rd, the Confederate cavalry under Colonels Ashby and Flournoy crossed the South Fork of the Shenandoah River to cut off Union communications between Strasburg and Front Royal. Jackson learned that most of the Front Royal garrison belonged to the 1st Maryland Infantry. Jackson called on his own 1st Maryland to lead the attack supported by part of Brig. Gen. Richard Taylor’s Louisiana Brigade.⁽¹⁾

The Confederate attack on May 23rd caught the Union garrison, commanded by Colonel John R. Kenly, by surprise as intended. Kenly’s 1st Maryland Infantry scattered, though he was able to rally them on Camp Hill (Richardson’s Hill) before finally retreating across the South and North Forks bridges on the Shenandoah River to reconstitute a defensive position on Guard Hill. Kenly then sent men back to burn the bridges, but the Confederates were able to put the fires out. By 6 p.m., Kenly’s forces had collapsed after the Virginia cavalry hit his Marylanders on both flanks.

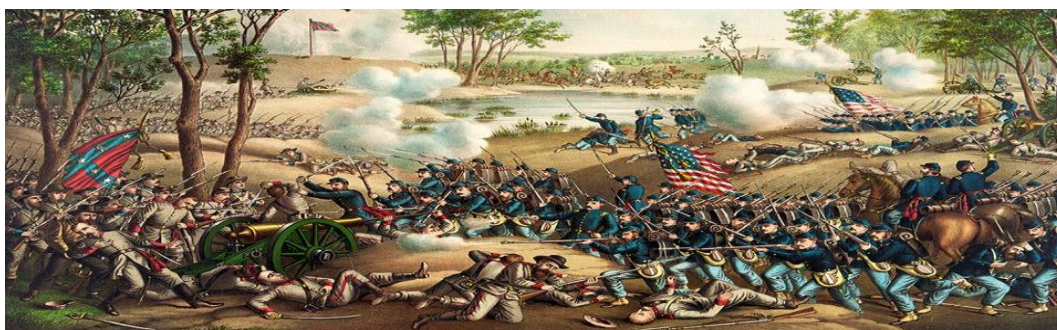
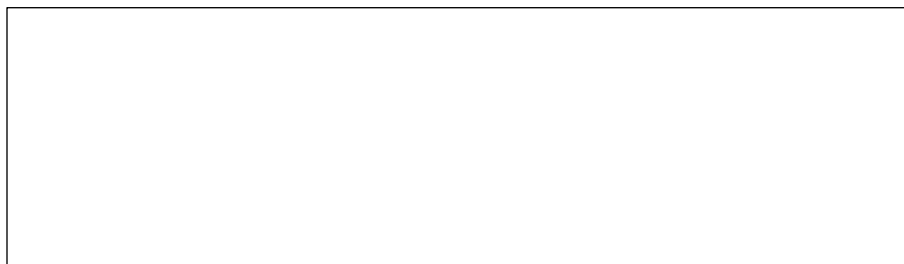
With Front Royal taken, General Banks and his army were in a difficult position. With Confederates at his front and to his east, and uncertain of their strength or what faced him next, Banks decided it was best to leave Strasburg and retreat to Winchester. With over 690 Union soldiers captured and another 82 killed or wounded (Confederate casualties numbered 36), Jackson had the clear victory in this action.

⁽¹⁾ This would be the only time in the Civil War when regiments from the same state (and with the same regimental designation) would confront each other in battle.



This Year !

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The Battle of Cold Harbor (May 31–June 3, 1864)

After two days of fighting at Totopotomoy Creek (May 29-30), both General Robert E. Lee and General Ulysses S. Grant moved their troops to move toward Cold Harbor, a small crossroads 10 miles north of Richmond. It became the focal point of intense, bloody action in an effort to stave off the Union Army's advance towards the manufacturing and rail center of Petersburg. A short battle ensued on May 31st, where the Union cavalry drove the Confederates beyond the Cold Harbor crossroads. On the morning of June 1st, Grant ordered the Eighteenth Corps and Sixth Corps to strike the Confederate defenses. However, Grant's attack was delayed and while his forces later briefly broke through the Confederate line, they were pushed back by a Confederate counterattack. The delay in action allowed Lee to construct elaborate entrenchments to reinforce his position on June 2nd. The main fighting then occurred on June 3. At 4:30 a.m., the Union forces launched their main attack through the darkness and fog and they soon become caught in the swamps, ravines, and heavy vegetation of the area, losing contact with each other. The angles in the elaborate Confederate defensive works then allowed Lee's men to easily enfilade the Union ranks as they advanced. An estimated 7,000 men were killed or wounded within the first 30 minutes of the assault and while Grant's men managed to seize a portion of the Confederate's defensive line, they were devastated when the Confederate artillery finally turned on them. Union casualties were staggering and, by 12:30 p.m., Grant suspended his attack. Union casualties: 17,332. Confederate casualties: 4,595. Reflecting on the battle, Grant later wrote, "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made... No advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained."