

THE BULL RUN CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Welcome to the Bull Run Civil War Round Table. This is a study group formed May 9, 1991 in Manassas, Virginia. Our main purpose is to study and promote the study of the Civil War so that we may better understand its importance. As we grow in numbers, we will be able to undertake more. All across the country, Civil War Round Tables are involved in community projects, education programs and preservation causes. It is my hope that we can eventually initiate or support similar causes in our community and region. But at the heart of the Round Table will be our monthly meetings where we, as friends and friendly enemies (depending on the state of your birth and your allegiance), come together to study the War. We will re-fight battles, discuss books, consider generals and controversies and generally enjoy ourselves discussing and debating the War and immersing ourselves in our hobby once a month for a couple of hours.

Meetings

The Round Table will meet once a month to hear a speaker or enjoy some other program. Some round tables take the summer off, some have an annual business meeting, some have dinner meetings, some have annual banquets, some are formal (coat and tie) and others are informal. We can decide all this as we grow, but for now we will meet every month wherever we can.

Programs

The main function of the Round Table will be to hold programs for the membership. The program chairman will line up speakers for each monthly meeting. These speakers will come from within our ranks as well as without. Outside speakers will include noted historians like Ed Bearss, Joe Mitchell, Dennis Frye, John Hennessy, Brian Pohanka, Will Greene, Peter Cozzens and others. We will try hard to get authors of recently published books to come and speak to us. These types often bring a case of their books and offer signed copies at a decent discount. About half our programs will come from members, so if you have an area of expertise, see your program chairman.

Organization

This Round Table will be a democratic organization. Eventually we will adopt a set of rules to live by (a constitution) and will elect officers -- a president, a vice president, a treasurer and a secretary. The president will be able to form committees and appoint chairmen (field trip committee, book raffle committee, education committee, preservation committee, etc. to name some possibilities).

Field Trips

Many Round Tables take one or two field trips a year. There are maybe half a dozen round tables in the country as well situated for field trips as we are and none is in a better location. We'll hire a first-class guide (see the list of speakers above), maybe

hire a bus (car pooling would be cheaper) and get a first-class walking tour of a nearby battlefield (Spotsylvania, Wilderness, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, Antietam, Gettysburg, even Manassas). This might cost us \$15 or \$20 a head (including lunch) maybe more maybe less. Some Round Tables have annual picnics or family outings; we can consider this as well.

Newsletter

Communication is the key to the success of any organization. I hope we can very soon get a newsletter started that will not only keep all of us informed about what and when the the next meeting will be but what is going on in the Civil War field, what new books are out, what the current controversies are, etc.

Preservation

We live in hard times. More and more land in our community is being gobbled up and turned into townhouse lots and 7 elevens. All of us care about the example set for us by our ancestors who fought in the War, and all of feel it is important to remember their example and sacrifice. None of us can forget it. Our neighborhood would now be vastly different if preservationists had not stepped in a few years ago to stop the mall out at Groveton. This Round Table will be informed of all Civil War preservation issues in our area. In times like these, it behooves all of us interested in the War to do what we can to save the physical remains of it. Our children must to learn about it too, and they deserve to have the same advantages as we have had, namely, they should be able to go out and walk the battlefields.

Growth

We must continue to grow. Many Round Tables number well over 100, some over 200 and Chicago's is, I think, over 300. Tell your friends, help us publicize meetings, get involved, pay dues. The bigger our treasury the more we can offer.

This Round Table can be whatever we want it to be. It is our group -- yours and mine. I started it because I have belonged to Round Tables in other areas and know that they can be a lot of fun. I hope you will join me in making this Round Table healthy and successful and prosperous -- but most of all, fun.

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The address of the Round Table is:

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