



**About the Speakers**  
(Speakers subject to change)

**GARY ECELBARGER**

Gary Ecelbarger is a 25 year veteran of American history symposia and tours. He is the author of 7 books and numerous articles on Civil War history. He is also the co-author of 2 Time Life books. His book, 'The Battle of Atlanta: The Day Dixie Died' has won much positive acclaim. He is often called upon to give tours of the battlefields of the Atlanta Campaign.



**CHRIS MACKOWSKI**

Chris Mackowski is the editor and co-founder of the 'Emerging Civil War Series' which is an award-winning overview on Civil War Battles and history. He is a professor of journalism at St. Bonaventure University in New York and is the historian in residence at Stevenson's Ridge, a historic site on the Spotsylvania Battlefield. He serves on the board of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust.



**FRANK A. O'REILLY**

Frank O'Reilly works as a historian on the Fredericksburg area battlefields. He is also the award-winning author of, 'The Fredericksburg Campaign: Winter War on the Rappahannock'. He has been seen on many documentaries, on CSPAN, and has lectured extensively across the country. Frank will be a guide with us on the Sunday tour.



**SCOTT PATCHAN**

Scott Patchan is a leading scholar and battlefield guide on the Shenandoah Valley in the Civil War. He has written five books on the region and dozens of articles in 'Blue and Gray', 'North and South' and 'Civil War Times'.



**GORDON RHEA**

Gordon Rhea has written seven award winning volumes on the 1864 Overland Campaign. He received his B.A. in history from Indiana University, his M.A. in history from Harvard University and his law degree from Stanford University Law School. He is considered an authority on the Overland Campaign and is in great demand as a speaker and tour guide. He also serves on the board of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust. Gordon will be a guide with us on Sunday.



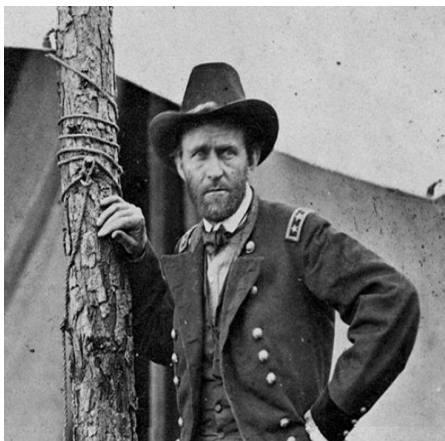
**ERIC WITTENBERG**

Eric Wittenberg is an award-winning Civil War historian and author or co-author of over 25 volumes on the Civil War. His work is focused on the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac. He serves on the board of the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust and on the Little Big Horn Associates. Educated at Dickinson College and the University of Pittsburgh Law School, he is an attorney in private practice in Columbus, Ohio.



26th ANNUAL

# Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War



## Grant Takes Command Part II

October 4- 6, 2024

Middleburg Community Center  
300 West Washington Street  
Middleburg, Virginia

*Presented by*  
**The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area**



Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area  
Post Office Box 1497  
Middleburg, Virginia 20118



**Register by May 31st and take \$50 off total registration!**

# Conference Schedule

(Subject to change)

## Friday, October 4

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

Registration, Reception and Book Browsing

**5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

Speaker: Scott Patchan

"One Bright Sheet of Flames': The Burning"

**6:15 pm - 7:15 pm**

Speaker: Gordon Rhea

"Spotsylvania Courthouse: Highlighting Grant and Lee at Their Best and Their Worst"

Dinner on your own

## Saturday, October 5

**8:00 am - 8:30 am**

Registration, Coffee and Snacks

**8:30 am - 9:30 am**

Speaker: Gary Ecelbarger

"Sherman Wins the War in Two Months - The Atlanta Campaign in June and July, 1864"

**9:45 am - 10:45 am**

Speaker: Scott Patchan

"Fairly Won': The Battle of Jonesboro and the Fall of Atlanta"

**11:00 am - 12 noon**

Speaker: Gordon Rhea

"A Study in Command: How Grant Breaks Deadlocks at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor"

**12:00 noon - 12:30 pm**

Lunch Served

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm**

Speaker: Frank O'Reilly

"Words Can Not Picture the Scene': The Yellow Tavern Raid"

**1:45 pm - 2:45 pm**

Speaker: Eric Wittenberg

"Cavalry on the Roads to Cold Harbor: May 27 through June 1, 1864"

**3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Speaker: Chris Mackowski

"Punch-Drunk Rookie Mistakes': Moments of Contingency on the Road to North Anna"

**4:15 pm - 5:00 pm**

Panel Discussion

**5:00 pm - 6:15 pm**

Happy Hour on your own at local Middleburg businesses

**6:15 pm - 7:00 pm**

Bar opens at the Middleburg Community Center

**7:00 pm**

Banquet Dinner at the Middleburg Community Center

## Sunday, October 6

**8:00 am**

Bus departs behind the Middleburg Community Center for the Spotsylvania National Battlefield. (Box lunches will be served.)



For further information, contact VPHA at 540-687-6681 or info@piedmontheritage.org.

For updates or to register online, visit our website: [www.piedmontheritage.org/events](http://www.piedmontheritage.org/events).

26th ANNUAL

# Conference on the Art of Command in the Civil War

Presented by

The Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area

**October 4 - 6, 2024**

300 West Washington Street · Middleburg, Virginia

**Bus tour seating is limited to first 50 people to register.**

**Register by May 31 and take \$50 off registration fee.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please provide the names of all attending)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Registration - All Activities \$475

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Friday & Saturday Lectures Only \$275

(includes lunch, not dinner)

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Additional tickets to Saturday's dinner available upon request

I would also like to support the Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area's mission of *Preservation through Education*.

Angel - \$100 donation

Sponsor - \$575 (\$100 donation & ticket)

Patron - \$725 (\$250 donation & ticket)

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make checks payable to Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area)

I would like to register by credit card:

Please charge my  Visa  Mastercard

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail registration information to:

Virginia Piedmont Heritage Area  
P.O. Box 1497, Middleburg, VA 20118

\*Full payment is required upon registration. If you cancel in writing before September 1, 2024, 80% of your registration fee will be refunded. After this date there will be no refund, but another person may be substituted without penalty.