

BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Gen. Robert E. Lee to address Civil War Round Table



Confederate General Robert E. Lee is alive and well as the Brunswick Civil War Round Table anticipates his appearance at the first meeting of their new season on Tuesday, September 2nd, the day after Labor Day. Actually, General Lee will be portrayed by Civil War reenactor Thomas Jessee, a respected and celebrated “Living” Historian, dressed in his Confederate uniform, of course!

General Lee, the commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, remains one of the most compelling and controversial figures in American history. What we remember most about him is a complex combination of his renowned military genius, his symbolic role in the “Lost Cause” of the Confederacy, and the ongoing, often heated, re-evaluation of his legacy focusing on his role as a slaveholder, and his fight to preserve human suppression, better known as slavery.

It is simply impossible to briefly summarize his incredible three year military career, from assuming command of the Army of Northern Virginia in June, 1862 to his surrender to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in April, 1865. But equally important, what about his early life which has been largely ignored by many historians? Or, if time his permits, what about his life after the war? As best expressed by Thomas Jessee, “I’ll be there so you can meet me, talk to me, and ask me questions. I look like General Lee. So when



you go away, you'll remember the experience, which also means you'll remember this part of history."

Jessee is a longtime student of General Lee. He has portrayed him in various venues throughout the US over the years. As a Living Historian, he is well known for his in-depth research to capture Lee's character and demeanor. In 2015, he was approved by the National Park Service to portray General Lee at the 150th Anniversary of the Appomattox Surrender in Virginia, and appears in the new Appomattox Visitors Center film shown to the public daily. He recently appeared in the role of General Lee on April 9 - 10, 2022 at the park. He also has been a reenactor since 1969 at the age of 18, starting out as a Private, and through the years worked his way up the ranks to General.



Save the date. The new season of monthly meetings begins on Tuesday, September 2nd, the day after Labor Day. Meetings are held at Hatch Auditorium on Caswell Beach. Registrations begin at 6:15PM. Programs start at 7:00PM. The visitor fee remains at \$10, and may be applied toward the \$25 annual membership dues, which importantly can include a spouse. Everyone is welcome. By the way, about one-third of our audiences are female!

For more information about the meeting or the Round Table, please contact president John Butler at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable@gmail.com, or call him directly at (404) 229-9425. Or, visit their website at Brunswickcivilwarroundtable.com for background and current information, news, and updates.