

SVBF 2019 Valley Conference
THE FORGOTTEN VALLEY
August 3, 2019 • Winchester, Virginia

Speakers

Eric Buckland has written several books about some of the men who rode with Mosby's Rangers during the War Between the States. He has received two prestigious United Daughters of the Confederacy's Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medals for his writing and research about the Rangers. In 1999, Eric retired from the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel after a 22-year military career. The majority of his service was in Special Forces. Some of Buckland's awards include the Special Forces and Ranger Tabs, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Diver Badge and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Eric Buckland is President of The Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and a volunteer with the Mosby Heritage Area Association. He is featured in a C-Span 3 American History Program entitled "The Leadership of Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby."

Gary Ecelbarger is the author/co-author of 10 books with half of them dedicated to the Shenandoah Valley Campaign as well as over a dozen magazine articles and essays focused upon the same theater. His book-length treatments of the battles of Kernstown, Front Royal and Winchester as well as his Blue & Gray Magazine General's Tours of Cross Keys and Port Republic have all been widely acclaimed for thorough research and thought-provoking discoveries. A twenty-year veteran of Shenandoah Valley tours, Ecelbarger is also a charter and former board member of the Kernstown Battlefield Association and has aided in the historical interpretations of several regions of the Valley.

Dennis Frye recently retired after 20 years as the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. For his more than 3 decades of service with the National Park Service, Dennis earned the "Distinguished Service Award," the highest honor of the Department of Interior. Dennis also received the American Battlefield Trust's highest honor, the "Shelby Foote Award," and was recognized with the "Nevins-Freeman Award" for his years of scholarship and his national leadership role in battlefield preservation. Dennis is a prominent Civil War historian as a writer, lecturer, preservationist and battlefield guide. Dennis has numerous appearances on PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, C-SPAN, Fox News, A&E, and Voice of America as a guest historian. He helped produce Emmy award-winning television features on the Battle of Antietam, abolitionist John Brown, and Maryland during the Civil War. Dennis is one of the nation's leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today's Civil War Trust, from whom he received the Trust's highest honor - the Shelby Foote Award. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 101 articles and 11 books. He just completed *Confluence: Harpers Ferry as Destiny*, scheduled for release this June. His most recent book is *Antietam Shadows: Mystery, Myth & Machination*. His book *Harpers Ferry Under Fire* received

the national book of the year award from the Association of Partners for Public Lands; and *September Suspense: Lincoln's Union in Peril*, was awarded the 2012 Laney Book Prize for distinguished scholarship and writing on the military and political history of the war. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America's Civil War*, *Blue & Gray Magazine*, *North and South Magazine*, and *Hallowed Ground*, and as a guest contributor to the *Washington Post*. Dennis resides near the Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.

Catherine Mägi is a graduate of the College of William and Mary Law School, a place that prides itself on being “a little different.” As a student in the revolutionary city of Williamsburg, Catherine was inspired by Thomas Jefferson’s call for “citizen lawyers”—professionals who use their skills *outside* of courtrooms to protect, guide, nurture, and otherwise benefit their communities. To that end, Catherine’s career has been characterized by public service and volunteerism, including stints with the William and Mary Public Service Fund, the Jamestown 2007 commemoration, the Smithsonian Institution, the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Jefferson County (WV) Community Safety Board, and various archeological investigations ranging from 17th-century Jamestown to 19th-century Annapolis. From 2011 to 2018, she also served as a popular history and government teacher, creating and implementing honors courses for home schoolers and other independent educators. In 2017, Catherine joined the staff of the Harpers Ferry Park Association as a professional writer. She has also been editor, blogger, bookseller, interpretation master, content creator, even contract negotiator. Her past projects include *To Emancipate the Mind and Soul: Storer College 1867-1955*; the 2019 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park wall calendar, published in honor of the park’s 75th anniversary; and representing HFPA as a contributor to an upcoming book on West Virginia’s independent bookshops, to be published by West Virginia University. She also serves as editor of *The View*, the organization’s quarterly membership publication. *Confluence* is Catherine’s first book-length publication as an author. However, more than thirty of her essays have been published, garnering awards from the intensely local (*Bethesda Magazine*’s first place essayist in 2015) to the extraordinarily far-flung (receiving multiple invitations from the President of Estonia, her father’s ancestral homeland, to read her work). Harpers Ferry is not just Catherine’s job—it is her life. She has had the great and honorable adventure of single-handedly restoring an 1840s armorer’s house and making it her home. She is inspired every day by the Civil War history that is very literally written on her walls.

Scott C. Patchan is the author of many articles and books, including *The Forgotten Fury: The Battle of Piedmont* (1996), *Shenandoah Summer: The 1864 Valley Campaign* (2007), *Second Manassas: Longstreet's Attack and the Struggle for Chinn Ridge* (2011), *The Battle of Piedmont and Hunter's Raid on Staunton* (2011), and *The Last Battle of Winchester: Phil Sheridan, Jubal Early and the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign* (2013). He has also written feature essays for *Blue and Gray Magazine* on Cool Spring, Rutherford's Farm and Second Kernstown; Third Battle of Winchester, Fisher's Hill, Cedar Creek and two volumes on Second Bull Run. He has also written extensively for *Civil War Magazine*, *North South*, *America's Civil War* and other historical publications. Scott has twice served as President of Bull Run Civil War Round Table, a member of the Kernstown Battlefield Association's board of directors from 2000-2014, and worked extensively on the interpretation of the Third Winchester battlefield for the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation. He is currently editing the journal of Colonel Joseph Thoburn and continuing his work on the Valley Campaigns.

He is also a much sought tour guide at both Civil War and Revolutionary War era sites from New York to Georgia.

Keven M. Walker is the Chief Executive Officer of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF). Keven came to the Foundation from Antietam National Battlefield, where he served for 11 years as a Ranger, a Cultural Resources Specialist, and the Acting Cultural Resource Program Manager. He is the author of *Antietam: A Guide to the Landscape and Farmsteads*. Under Walker's leadership, the Battlefields Foundation has tackled some of the largest preservation projects in its history; preserved over 600 acres of battlefield land; opened two visitor centers and a 600 acre full service battlefield park; more than tripled its youth development involvement; assumed management of the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum; started an annual National Conference; launched new initiatives such as the Shenandoah At War magazine; and strengthened the SVBF's partnerships both in the Valley and nationwide.

Eric J. Wittenberg is an award-winning Civil War historian. He is the author of 23 published books on the Civil War and dozens of articles. He is also regularly in demand as a lecturer and tour guide. His specialty is cavalry operations in the Civil War, but he is also interested in strategy, tactics, and decision-making. He is deeply involved in battlefield preservation work, and often works with the American Battlefields Trust in its battlefield preservation work. He is a member of the editorial board of *Gettysburg Magazine* and is a member of the board of directors of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. Wittenberg was educated at Dickinson College and at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He is a practicing attorney. He and his wife Susan reside in Columbus, Ohio.