

Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute
Spring 2026 Conference

“QUENCHING THE EMBERS”
VICTORY, DEFEAT, AND CHALLENGES AFTER APPOMATTOX

Saturday, April 18, 2026

On the campus of Shenandoah University, Winchester, Virginia
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.



As the Civil War neared its end in the spring of 1865 and in its immediate aftermath, Lieutenant General Ulysses S. Grant, although jubilant over the Union's military triumph, recognized that there were still “embers of the great rebellion” that needed “quenching.” The McCormick Civil War Institute's spring 2026 conference will explore some of the challenges the nation confronted in the Civil War's final days and its immediate aftermath, including dealing with Confederate officials who scattered in various directions during the Confederacy's final days, the parole of Confederate troops and the demobilization of the Army of Northern Virginia, concerns about how political unrest in Mexico could reignite the conflict, President

Andrew Johnson's perspective on Reconstruction and the efforts of Radical Republicans to challenge Johnson.

Tentative Schedule of Sessions

8:30-9:30 a.m. Check-in, Shenandoah University (1460 University Drive, Winchester, VA)

9:30-9:40 a.m. Welcome, Jeff Coker, Dean College of Arts & Sciences

“Our Work in Crushing the Rebellion Will Not be Done Until this Takes Place”: General Philip H. Sheridan & Mexico (*Jonathan A. Noyolas, Shenandoah University*)

10:40-10:55 a.m. Break

10:55-11:55 a.m. The Last Days of the Confederate Government (*William C. “Jack” Davis, former executive director, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech*)

11:55 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Lunch, Family Kitchen at Allen Dining Hall

1:15-2:15 p.m. Lee's Army After Appomattox (*Caroline Janney, University of Virginia*)

2:15-2:30 p.m. Break & Book Raffle

2:30-3:30 p.m. The “Usurpation”: George Boutwell and the Impeachment of Andrew Johnson (*Jeffrey Boutwell, author*)

3:30-4 p.m. Concluding Remarks and Book Signing



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McCormick Civil War Institute

Registration Information

\$30 registration fee, check should be made payable to “Shenandoah University.” Fee covers cost of all presentations and lunch. Space is limited so register early. You can register via the attached paper form or online at www.su.edu/mcwi. Questions can be directed to MCWI's director via email jnoyalas01@su.edu or phone 540-665-4501.



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“Quenching the Embers”: Victory, Defeat, and Challenges after Appomattox

Registration Information

First and Last Name

Home Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

Preferred Day Time Phone

Payment Section

Registration Fee - \$30.00

Payment Method: (Select One)

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Questions? Contact Prof. Jonathan Noyalas at jnoyalas01@su.edu or call 540-665-4501