

## Scholarship Judges – 2009

### **Steve French**

Steve French is a graduate of Shepherd College and teaches West Virginia history at Martinsburg South Middle School. He is the author of *Imboden's Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign* and *The Jones-Imboden Raid against the B&O Railroad at Rowlesburg, Virginia*. He is also the editor of *Four Years Along the Tihance- The Private Diary of Elisha Manor*. His numerous articles about the War Between the States have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *North&South Magazine*, *The Southern Cavalry Review*, *Crossfire- The Magazine of the British Civil War Roundtable*, and *The Washington Times*.

He is a member of numerous historical organizations including The Sons of Confederate Veterans, The Harpers Ferry Civil War Roundtable, The Stuart-Mosby Society, and the Berkeley County Historical Society.

Mr. French lives near Hedgesville, W.Va.

### **William E. Potter**

William Potter, the Historian and Curator of The Circa History Guild in Alpharetta, Georgia, combines a lifelong study of American history and an unique ability to communicate it to young and old alike. Although best known for his teaching in military history, especially the War Between the States, Mr. Potter's expertise covers every era of the history of the United States.

He has taught history classes to high school and college students, led family-oriented history tours of Virginia, Philadelphia, New England and Scotland, and has a practical knowledge of antiquarian books, documents, and artifacts. He has published several short books and published many articles and book reviews and appeared in documentary films. He was president of the Williamsburg Civil War Roundtable for ten years and is a member of the Virginia Historical Society and Georgia Historical Society.

As a father of eight children, he appreciates the necessity of passing on to the succeeding generations the richness of both our regional and national history. Recent essays by Mr.

Potter can be read at [www.circahistory.com](http://www.circahistory.com).

Education:

PhD (abd) - The College of William and Mary

MA - The University of Dayton

BA - Cedarville University

## **Kenny Rowlette**

After graduating from Berea College in Berea, Kentucky in 1973, Rowlette taught Senior English and Latin and coached indoor and outdoor track and cross-country at Liberty High School in Bedford, Virginia. In 1979, he received a M.Ed. from Lynchburg College and taught part-time at Virginia Western Community College in Roanoke, Virginia. He is A.B.D. in English Education at the University of Virginia.

He is currently an Associate Professor of English at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia and in 2002 became the Director of Liberty University Summer Academic Programs. He is also the Director of the National Civil War Chaplains Museum and the Co-Chair of the Liberty University Civil War Seminar.

Some of Rowlette's publications and presentations include: "Lee on Leadership." Presented at Liberty University, October 2003, "Imported Death: The Confederate Whitworth Sharpshooter," Presented to the Appomattox Rangers Court House SUV Camp #1733, September 2007, and "The Impact of Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* Contemporary Society," Presented to the Kirkwood Otey UDC Chapter #10, June 2008

A Civil War reenactor, he is a private in the 105<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania, Company C and an associate member of Company "C," 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, US Sharpshooters. He is also a member of the Garland-Rodes SCV Camp #409, Vice-Commander of the Taylor-Wilson Sons of Union Veterans Camp, and secretary of the Central Virginia Civil War Council.

## **Taylor Sanders**

Taylor Sanders, professor of history and university historian, joined the faculty of Washington and Lee University in 1969. He is the author of two books, several monographs, and many articles and papers. He has written extensively on Robert E. Lee, George Washington, and the local history of Rockbridge County.

He is a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Society of the War of 1812, and the Society of the Cincinnati in the state of Maryland. He has been the Virginia Society of Cincinnati's distinguished George Washington Scholar and was awarded the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal by the Virginia Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Professor Sanders is a member and past chairman of the Lexington Planning Commission and is a regular volunteer steward for horse trials and eventing meets at the Virginia Horse Center.

Education:

- Ph.D., University of Virginia, 1972
- M.A., University of Virginia, 1967
- B.A., Centre College, 1965

Research:

Research Interests: Frontiers ancient and modern, Early Virginia, Ancient Syria, the impact of climate on human affairs.

Current Research: Climate and history

Teaching:

Areas: Ancient history, Classics, British history, History of Washington & Lee

### **Richard G. Williams, Jr.**

Richard G. Williams, Jr. is an award winning author and contributor to the *Washington Times Military History* column. He has also written for *Homeschooling Today Magazine* and other national publications.

He co-produced the video series, *Institute on the Constitution* with constitutional attorney John Eidsmoe which won a national award from The Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. He has authored three books: *Christian Business Legends*, *The Maxims of Robert E. Lee for Young Gentlemen*, and *Stonewall Jackson ~ The Black Man's Friend*. His latest book is the basis for a documentary about Stonewall Jackson: *Still Standing – The Stonewall Jackson Story*. He has appeared on *C-Span's Book TV* and *CBN* and his work has been mentioned in the *Christian Science Monitor* & *Harper's Magazine*.

Williams is a member of the Military Writers Society of America and the Bonnie Blue Society—a literary organization focusing on Confederate history. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Virginia Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans for his articles about the WBTS. The United Daughters of the Confederacy awarded Williams the Jefferson Davis Historical Gold Medal, the highest award bestowed upon non-members. Williams was also recently honored by the Kappa Alpha Order with their prestigious “Robert E. Lee Appreciation Award.” Williams has worked with youth as a Sunday-school teacher, 4-H leader, and YMCA basketball coach.

Williams serves on the Board of Trustees for the National Civil War Chaplains Museum and has worked as a publisher, gubernatorial appointee, and a Magistrate for the Commonwealth of Virginia. He is a trained paralegal and holds a professional designation in the financial services industry.

Williams is the descendant of three Confederate soldiers and among his Scots-Irish ancestors may be counted preachers, politicians, and moonshiners.