



## **“Five Minutes in the Field: Graduate Student Lightning Round”**

### **Call for Proposals**

**Society of Civil War Historians Annual Conference**

**June 18–20, 2026, in Richmond, VA**

The Graduate Student Connection Committee of the Society of Civil War Historians invites proposals for a Graduate Student Lightning Round at the 2026 SCWH Conference. This session will provide a professional development opportunity for graduate students to workshop their research, practice concise scholarly communication, and engage in constructive dialogue with peers and senior scholars.

The panel will consist of 8–10 graduate student participants, each presenting a five-minute “elevator pitch” on a current research project, preferably related to their thesis or dissertation work. Projects must engage with the history of the Civil War era. Each five-minute presentation will be followed by a brief, moderated Q&A led by the Chair of the Graduate Student Connection Committee and a senior historian. The session offers a supportive but academically rigorous space for refining research questions, sharpening arguments, and practicing public presentation skills.

### **Submission Instructions**

Prospective participants should submit:

- A 150–250 word abstract describing the project and its significance
- A brief, approximately 50-word biographical statement

Submissions should be sent to SCWH Managing Director, Dr. Lindsey R. Peterson at [SocietyCWH@gmail.com](mailto:SocietyCWH@gmail.com), no later than **Friday, March 13, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. (CST)**. The Graduate Student Connection Committee will review all submissions and notify applicants of decisions by April 30, 2026.

Applicants must:

- Be current members of the Society of Civil War Historians at the time of the conference
- Be currently enrolled in a Master’s or Ph.D. program, or be a recent graduate (within 1 year)
- Register for the 2026 SCWH Conference in Richmond