

Circular Memorandum #523

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February 2021

Announcing Our 553rd Meeting

"The True Confederate High Tide: Summer-Fall 1862"

Will be Presented by Robert Lee Hodge

DATE: Saturday, February 13

PROGRAM: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Your Home

Meet our Speaker Robert Lee Hodge



Born on Stonewall Jackson's birthday Robert Lee Hodge has had a keen interest in America's Civil War history since age 4. Over the course of more than 30 years, Hodge has worked on several history-based films—from dramas like ABC's *North and South* and TNT's *Gettysburg* and *Andersonville*, to many programs on The History Channel, Arts and Entertainment Channel, and the National Geographic Channel, to his own Civil War documentaries, which have won 5 Telly awards and a regional Emmy in 2007. Hodge has been featured on National Public Radio's *Talk of the Nation* and *Soundscapes*, NBC's *Late, Late Show*, *The New Yorker*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the PBS program *Going Places*, and C-SPAN II's *Book TV*. Robert has also written for *The Nashville Tennessean*, *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War* magazine, *The Washington Post*, and *North and South* magazine. He played a major role in, and appears on the cover of, the *New York Times*' 1999 best-seller

Confederates in the Attic—hosting Pulitzer Prize-winning author Tony Horwitz on an eclectic and memorable Civil War tour-de-force of historic sites.

Robert has been a historical researcher, primarily at The National Archives and Library of Congress, working with nationally recognized experts. He also was principal researcher on Time-Life Books 18-volume series *Voices of the Civil War* and *The Illustrated History of the Civil War*. Hodge's interest became preserving historic greenspace when he interned with the National Park Service's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1992. He has organized battlefield preservation fund-raisers that have garnered over \$160,000. He also serves on the board of directors of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (the CVBT); an organization that has protected over 1,300 acres at Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, The Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, since 1996. Hodge was featured on the National Geographic Channel and *Time* magazine in

2011, wrote for The Washington Post during the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and was a researcher for the U.S. Army in 2013.

In 2016 he wrote the script for the film at Andrew Jackson's Hermitage. In 2017 he appeared in The Wall Street Journal and on National Public Radio's Kojo Nnamdi Show and Chinese Central Television about Confederate monuments and Civil War memory.

The True Confederate High Tide: Summer-Fall 1862

On a Civil War Sites Advisory Commission tour in 1992 with the late historian, Ed Bearss, then intern Robert Lee Hodge learned of the true high tide of the Confederacy. From Missouri to Maryland Confederate armies were on the move in late 1862 to, in part, effect the upcoming congressional elections, to thwart emancipation, and to gain European recognition. Despite initial successes, Southern forces lost on all fronts. Hodge will talk of the Confederate rising tide, and its crests at Corinth, Perryville, Sharpsburg, and Shepardstown."

The February Meeting Will Be a Zoom Meeting

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the February meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Big Spring Country Club, our meeting place, has informed us that they will be closed in February and we are going to hold this meeting as a Zoom meeting on the scheduled date as planned. The ongoing situation that continues to develop and continues to change with the virus will dictate how soon we can meet in person. This situation is not just here but is affecting Round Tables and other groups that hold meeting all over the country. Zoom is a technology that is now being widely used by groups and businesses across the country to conduct meetings.

How Does Zoom Work?

This is basically how Zoom would work for a meeting. First, you will need to download the Zoom app to your computer, tablet, or cellphone. You can do this by going to zoom.us and clicking on "Resources" and "Download Zoom Client for Meetings". You will receive an email before the meeting with a **link** that you will click on and that will take you directly into the meeting. You will not need to enter a passcode or password as the link will take you directly into the meeting. We encourage you to log in ahead of the start time so that you will be ready when the meeting starts. At 7:00 you will see our President, Dave Hoffmann, who will host the meeting, introduce the speaker and then you will be able to see and hear the speaker give his talk. You can ask questions during the talk using the chat function and the speaker will answer at the end of the meeting. The meeting will last about one hour and of course you can drink your favorite beverages and munch on snacks while you watch, and you do not have to dress "up"!

Additional Zoom Features for the February Meeting

In our February meeting participants will have the option of turning on their cameras and microphones while waiting for the program to start. During this time you will be able to see your fellow LCWRT members, talk, and send text messages to them. So if you've been waiting to see some of your friends in LCWRT, the February meeting is where you can touch base.

Once the program starts at 7:00, we'll ask everyone to mute their microphones and turn off cameras. Text messaging through Chat will still be open to send messages to the speaker or individual members during the presentation.

Email Addresses - Very Important for Zoom Meetings

To connect to our Zoom Webinar activities, we need a current and active email for you. We have email addresses for most of our members. For the ones we do not have email addresses for, you will receive a request in your mailed newsletter to email me. I will need to have your email address before February 12 when the link to the meeting will be sent. You can send me your email at johnd.davis@twc.com. As a reminder, we do not share your email address with any outside group. If you receive the newsletter by email, you obviously do not need to send your email address to me unless you have a new email address.

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Field Trip to Gettysburg Cancelled

After careful consideration, the Round Table Board of Directors met January 19 and voted unanimously to cancel this year's field trip to Gettysburg scheduled for April 21-25. The Board believes that the Covid-19 pandemic will not be sufficiently under control at that time to enable us to have a field trip that would be of the quality we are accustomed to. The risks were deemed too high and the restrictions we would be under too great to make this an enjoyable trip for the participants. The Board regrets that for the second straight year we have had to cancel because of the pandemic but the Board thought that this decision is in the best interests of our membership. The ten members who have signed up and paid the \$200 deposit will receive a full refund.

The **good news** is that we have already rescheduled the trip to Gettysburg for next year! We will be going to Gettysburg April 27 - May 1, 2022! We will have the same great guide, James Hassler, and the pandemic situation will have in all probability been brought under control. Mark your calendars now!

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2020 - 2021 Schedule

Saturday February 13	Robert Lee Hodge	"The Real High Tide of the Confederacy"
Saturday March 13	Gordon Rhea	"Grant vs Lee in the Overland Campaign"
Saturday April 10	Will Greene	"We Have Done All That is Possible and Must Be Resigned: The First Offensive At Petersburg"
Saturday May 8	Thomas Flagel	"War, Memory and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion"

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Help Save 94 Acres at Mill Springs!

We have the opportunity to save hallowed ground, a 94-acre tract at Mill Springs, Kentucky. Join the American Battlefield Trust to save this core battlefield land with all its history and heritage for future generations **while multiplying the power of your generosity by a factor of \$3.26-to-\$1.**

Mill Springs Battlefield

The Battle of Mill Springs is where a Federal victory set the stage for the fight to keep the Bluegrass state. From the very outset of the war, Lincoln and his generals understood the importance of keeping this critical border state in Union hands — Lincoln famously remarked that *"I hope I have God on my side, but I must have Kentucky."*

In late 1861, Confederate forces made their winter camp near Mill Springs. On January 19, 1862, General Felix Zollicoffer received orders to launch an attack on Federal forces led by Union General George H. Thomas, at an area called Logan's Crossroads.

In the early morning mist and rain, Zollicoffer moved toward the body of Union troops, but was killed as he scouted ahead of his men, leaving his own troops in a state of confusion. Fierce hand-to-hand combat commenced across the property, as Kentuckians and Minnesotans held off the determined charge of Mississippians and Tennesseans.

Federal forces eventually stopped the Confederate advance, turning the tide of the battle. This marked the first significant Union victory of the war, reinvigorated Northern morale and paved the way for the effort to keep Kentucky firmly in Union control.

This land is regarded by historians as some of the last core battlefield land that could be saved at Mill Springs.

The Opportunity

We have the opportunity to save a 94-acre tract at Mill Springs, Kentucky. Thanks to a combination of federal and state grants, as well as substantial private donations, we can save this priceless battlefield land at a **\$3.26-to-\$1 match**, more than tripling the power of your donation dollar!

The good news is that we have already secured or applied for the grant funding to cover a significant amount of the dollars of the total needed to complete this projects, but we must still raise the final **amount** necessary.

The need to preserve this tract is urgent and we can't do this without your support! We have the opportunity to change the fate of this land and protect it for future generations.

Now is the time for a fresh start, to set goals and make plans for a successful and fulfilling year ahead. For each of us at the Trust, this means rededicating ourselves to our core mission — saving our nation's hallowed ground and educating the public about why it is still so important today.

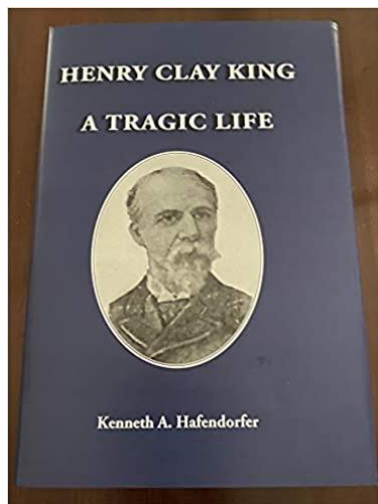
David N. Duncan, American Battlefield Trust President

The American Battlefield Trust is dedicated to preserving America's hallowed battlegrounds and educating the public about what happened there and why it matters today. The nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has protected more than 53,000 acres associated with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War. Learn more at www.battlefields.org.

The Board is Looking for a Volunteer to be Our Secretary

The Round Table's Board of Directors is looking for a volunteer to serve as our Secretary. Harriette Weatherbee is retiring from this position after many years of service for which we are very thankful! No experience necessary. Contact our President, Dave Hoffmann, at hoff331@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Kenneth Hafendorfer's Last Book Available



Round Table Life Member Dr. Kenneth Hafendorfer's last book is now available to members of the Round Table at a special price. Ken had finished the manuscript of this book on the life of Henry Clay King just before his passing and his daughter, Jennifer Hafendorfer finalized the manuscript and was able to have the book published.

Henry Clay King was a native of Kentucky who during the Civil War became Colonel of a battalion of Confederate cavalry known as King's Hell Hounds made up of mounted infantry from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Alabama. The book details the trials and tribulations of King's ultimately tragic life in which a love triangle led him to become a murderer. The book is available on Amazon for \$70, but you can get it for \$56 by check or \$53 cash from Jennifer Hafendorfer (502-664-7757) or Lowell Griffin (502-423-1861).

The Civil War Round Table Congress Speaker Series

If you like Zoom meetings, then you might want to check out this series. The Civil War Round Table Congress is offering a Zoom Lecture Series. All you need to do is go to their website, <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.html>, find the presentation you want to hear and register for it. The CWRT Congress has modified the format and will provide a variety of speakers on Wednesdays. We hope you enjoy them. There is also a series of U.S. Grant talks called Fridays with Grant that you can access at <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/grant.html>. There is no cost, but you do have to register in advance.

Here is a list of upcoming speakers:

FEBRUARY SPEAKERS:	February 17th	7PM	Jerry Wooten	"Johnsonville"
	February 24th	7PM	Steve Magnusen	"Rufus Dawes -My Best Girl"
MARCH SPEAKERS:	March 2nd	7PM	Daniel Davis	"Toward A Fateful Crossroads"
	March 3rd	7PM	Lee Ann Rose	"My Image, My War Mary Todd Lincoln"
	March 10th	7PM	David Goetz	"Ever the Gray Ghost"
	March 11th	7PM	Daniel Davis	"Hurricane From the Heavens"
	March 24th	7PM	Jerry Payn	"1863: A Year in Review"

JANUARY 2021 QUIZ:

1. Who was the last Confederate general of a significant Confederate force to surrender during the Civil War?
Brigadier General Stand Watie, who late in the war was given command of the First Indian Brigade of the Army of the Trans-Mississippi, surrendered to Union authorities on June 23, 1865 at Doaksville in Oklahoma Indian Territory.
2. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president, the mayor of an American city proposed that the city secede from the United States and become a free city. Who was the mayor and what was the city?
He was Fernando Wood of New York City, who also refused to fly the American flag over City Hall on Lincoln's inauguration day.
3. What Union officer was both a general in the U.S. Army and an admiral in the U.S. Navy?
Samuel P. Carter of Tennessee, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy at the beginning of the war, was attached to the U.S. Army as a brigadier general in 1861 and saw duty as a cavalry and infantry commander. After the war he returned to the Navy and eventually gained the rank of admiral. In 1877 he married Martha "Markie" Custis Williams, a cousin of Mrs. Robert E. Lee. She had extremely close ties to the entire Lee family and lived for extended periods of time at Arlington House prior to the war.
4. What was the name of the first ship in history to be sunk in combat by a submarine?
The USS Housatonic was sunk by the H.L. Hunley on February 17, 1864.
5. What was considered the bloodiest action of the Vicksburg Campaign?
That would probably be the pivotal battle and Union victory of Champion Hill, also known as Baker's Creek, fought on May 16, 1863.

FEBRUARY 2021 QUIZ:

1. Who was General Ulysses S. Grant's Chief of Staff during the Civil War?
2. Before commanding a division of garrison troops in the Richmond, Virginia defenses in mid 1864, what was Robert E. Lee's eldest son General George Washington Custis Lee's position in the Confederate Army?
3. What famous essayist, humorist, and short story writer served with the Ninth Indiana Division during the Civil War?
4. During the Civil War, what was a "gabion"?
5. Where was the greatest Union supply base of the war located?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Dave Hoffmann
President**