

Circular Memorandum #551

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Announcing Our 577th Meeting

December 2023

## **"Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence"**

**Will be Presented by Stuart Sanders**

**DATE: Saturday, December 9**

**Location: Big Spring Country Club**

**COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.**

**DINNER (\$35.00): 7:00 P.M.**

**PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.**

### **Meet Our Speaker - Stuart W. Sanders**

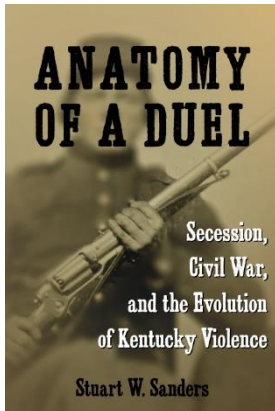
Stuart W. Sanders is the former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, as director, he worked for nearly 10 years to preserve and interpret Kentucky's largest Civil War battleground



before coming to the Kentucky Historical Society. He oversees community field services and as History Advocate, Stuart brings his experiences as a preservationist, interpreter, outreach specialist, author and speaker to his current duties, communicating the relevance, value and significance of Kentucky's history. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and completed Developing History Leaders @SHA. Stuart W. Sanders is the author of several books, including *Perryville Under Fire: The Aftermath of Kentucky's Largest Civil War Battle*, *The Battle of Mill Springs, Kentucky*, and *Maney's Confederate Brigade at the Battle of Perryville*. He has also contributed essays to the books *Kentuckians in Gray: Confederate Generals and Field Officers of the Bluegrass State*, multiple volumes of *Confederate Generals in the Western Theater*, and multiple volumes of the forthcoming *Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi*. He has written essays and articles for a number of publications, including *Civil War Times Illustrated*, *America's Civil War*, *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*, *Hallowed Ground*, *Blue and Gray*, *Kentucky Humanities*,

*Kentucky Ancestors*, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, *Encyclopedia Virginia*, and more. He is the former executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association and currently works in the public history field.

## "Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence"



When the popular musical *Hamilton* showcased the celebrated duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, it reminded twenty-first-century Americans that some honor-bound citizens once used negotiated, formal fights as a way to settle differences. During the Civil War, two prominent Kentuckians—one a Union colonel and the other a pro-Confederate civilian—continued this legacy by dueling. At a time when thousands of soldiers were slaughtering one another on battlefields, Colonel Leonidas Metcalfe and William T. Casto transformed the bank of the Ohio River into their own personal battleground. On May 8, 1862, these two men, both of whom were steeped in Southern honor culture, fought a formal duel with rifles at sixty yards. And, as in the fight between Hamilton and Burr, only one man walked away.

*Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence* examines why white male Kentuckians engaged in the "honor culture" of duels and provides fascinating narratives that trace the lives of duelists. Stuart W. Sanders explores why, during a time when Americans were killing one another in open, brutal warfare, Casto and Metcalfe engaged in the process of negotiating and fighting a duel. In deconstructing the event, Sanders details why these distinguished Kentuckians found themselves on the dueling ground during the nation's bloodiest conflict, how society and the Civil War pushed them to fight, why duels continued to be fought in Kentucky even after this violent confrontation, and how Kentuckians applied violence after the Civil War. *Anatomy of a Duel* is a comprehensive and compelling look at how the secession crisis sparked the Casto-Metcalfe duel—a confrontation that impacted the evolution of violence in Kentucky.

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**Please Note the Price of the Buffet is now \$35!**

**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED!**

**If you do not make a reservation, you may not get fed!**

The Round Table must give Big Spring an accurate count of reservations no later than the Wednesday before a Saturday Meeting, or the Thursday before a Sunday Meeting. Reservations can be made by emailing Bryan Winslow at [bryanw@macconstruction.com](mailto:bryanw@macconstruction.com) or by calling Doug Krawczyk at 502-592-6864.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you do not receive a return email from Bryan Winslow confirming your reservation, **YOU DO NOT HAVE A RESERVATION! You must call Doug to make your reservation.**

When making a reservation for more than yourself, please list the names of everyone for which you are making a reservation. If you are calling Doug, and get his voicemail, please spell your name so he can properly identify the reservation.

If you wish to join us for just the program, you must still make a reservation so we can assure you have space and a seat. If you are attending just the program, you can call Doug anytime up to 4:00PM the day of the Meeting.

**Reminder for Table Reservations:** Tables for parties of eight (8) can be reserved. When making a Table Reservation, please list the names of everyone in your party. That will ensure everyone in your party will be at the same table and enable us to manage our meeting space in a more efficient manner.

## Online Options Are Here!

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### Reservations, Payments, and Membership Renewals

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Members of the Round Table now have new options for making dinner reservations, Bourbon & BBQ reservations, field trip reservations, and membership renewals. To use these new options, first go to our website, <https://louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com> by clicking on this link or by googling "Louisville Civil War Round Table" which will bring up a link to our website.

1. To make dinner reservations and pay for your meal, on the home page of the website, click on "**Meetings**" on the left-hand side of the page and then scroll down to the current meeting. Click on "**Dinner and Program Reservations**" and enter the required fields to make your reservation and pay with a credit card. You will receive a confirmation email. You can still make your reservations by calling Doug Krawczyk or emailing Bryan Winslow.
2. To make membership renewals. On the home page under "**Membership**", then click on the appropriate level of membership and follow the instructions. Again, you can still pay your membership renewals by mail or by paying at the meetings.
3. **Coming Soon!** You will be able to make reservations for the Spring field trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania, click on the "**Field Trip**" option and follow the instructions. You can also sign up for the field trip at the meetings.
4. You will now have the capability to pay for your meals at the meetings with a **credit card**. Of course, you will still be able to pay with a check or cash at the meetings as before.

Please note that **you can still make reservations and payments as you have always done** before using emails, phone calls, checks and cash. We are implementing these new options to give you another way and hopefully an easier way to do these things.

We want to thank our Webmaster, Brian Taylor and our Treasurer Patrick Wilbourn for working hard to make this a reality. Please be aware that there will be enhancements and tweaks to make the new options more streamlined in the future. We will keep you apprised of any changes.

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### 2023 - 2024 Schedule

Saturday December 9	Stuart Sanders	"Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence"
Sunday January 14	Kent Masterson Brown	"Thoughts on Robert E. Lee"
Saturday February 10	Brad Gottfried	"The Wilderness and Spotsylvania"
Saturday March 9	Jim Hessler	"Pickett's Charge"
Saturday April 13	Tim Smith	"TBA"
Saturday May 11	Scott Hartwig	"Antietam"

## April 17-21, 2024, Field Trip to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Battle of Giants: Lee vs Grant with Gordon Rhea

We are going to Virginia to cover the beginning of the Overland Campaign, the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. The dates are April 17-21, 2024. Our guide will be renowned Civil War historian and author Gordon



Rhea. He has written seven award-winning books about the American Civil War, including *The Battle of the Wilderness*, *The Battles at Spotsylvania Court House* and *the Road to Yellow Tavern*, *To the North Anna River*, *Cold Harbor*, *On To Petersburg*, *Carrying the Flag*, and *In the Footsteps of Grant and Lee*. He has conducted numerous tours of these battlefields and has been involved in their preservation. These two battles which occurred over May 5 - May 12, 1864 marked the beginning of the titanic confrontation of the war's two greatest generals, Robert E. Lee and U.S. Grant and would to a large extent determine the outcome of the Civil War. When the Army of the Potomac numbering some 120,000 men crossed the Rapidan River on May 4 and entered the tangled undergrowth of the Wilderness, Robert E. Lee responded by

having his 55,000 Army of Northern Virginia break camp and march directly towards Grant's army. What followed was some of the war's most savage and dramatic fighting resulting in enormous casualties on each side. We will walk this hallowed ground and cover in detail what unfolded. You can **sign up** now by emailing John Davis at [johnd.davis@twc.com](mailto:johnd.davis@twc.com) or you can **sign up** at the meeting.

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### Things to Know About the Wilderness - Spotsylvania Field Trip

We will leave the Free Enterprise parking lot at 6:30 A. M. for the 555-mile trip to Fredericksburg.

You can park your vehicle in the secure parking lot at Free Enterprise.

We will stop at McDonald's for breakfast and make another stop for lunch before arriving at the Comfort Inn Suites in Fredericksburg, 4615 Southpoint Parkway, at approximately 5:00.

There are several restaurants within easy walking distance of the hotel including a very nice Mexican restaurant next door to our hotel for those who want to partake of the traditional Wednesday night Mexican experience.

We will spend the first one and a half days on the Wilderness battlefield. Much of the core battlefield is preserved in the National Park system. There will be quite a bit of walking as we traverse Saunders field and the surrounding woods before breaking for lunch and then spending the afternoon on the Orange Plank Road section of the battlefield including all the important actions that occurred around the Widow Tapp house and farm. Friday morning, we will cover the transition to Spotsylvania Court House as both armies raced to this important crossroads.

Friday afternoon and Saturday will be spent on the Spotsylvania battlefield, the scene of two weeks of dramatic fighting. The famous Mule Shoe and Bloody Angle are well preserved and there are lots of trails to canvas as we cover the fighting at Laurel Hill, Emory Upton's dramatic dawn attack, the Union break through at the apex of the Mule Shoe and the Confederate attempt to counterattack and restore their line culminating in the 24-hour struggle at the Bloody Angle. We will also see Lee's new line after he abandoned the Mule Shoe and visit the battlefield at Harris Farm.

We will conclude Saturday with dinner at the Stevenson's Ridge event center hosted by Chris Mackowski and his wife Jennifer. This will be a fantastic buffet dinner and a great way to wind up our trip before heading home on Sunday morning.



The **cost of the trip** is estimated currently to be \$450 per person. The final cost is determined by the number of people who will be on the trip. We have a maximum number of 40 for this trip. We will begin collecting the \$200 non-refundable deposit in January that will guarantee your reservation.

What does the cost of the trip cover? In addition to the cost of the bus, the fee includes the fees charged by our guide, Gordon Rhea, any fees for admission to the National Military Parks, three lunches, the Friday night pizza party at the hotel, the grand finale dinner on Saturday night, and all gratuities paid to our guide and bus driver.

What is not covered? You will be responsible for your hotel which you will get at the reduced group rate of \$120 per night plus Virginia state taxes. You will also be responsible for any meals not covered by the trip fee.

I hope you will make plans to join us on what promises to be a great experience with a great guide and great fellowship! Mark your calendars for April 17-21. You can sign up at the meetings or by emailing John Davis at [johnd.davis@twc.com](mailto:johnd.davis@twc.com). If you have any questions, please send your email to John or talk to him at the meetings.

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### **Suggested Reading List for the Wilderness - Spotsylvania**

There is no better place to start than the books by our guide, Gordon Rhea. These are easily the best studies of these two battles ever written. "The Battle of the Wilderness May 5-6, 1864" and "The Battles for Spotsylvania Court House and the Road to Yellow Tavern May 7-12, 1864" cannot be topped. Bradley Gottfried has written two detailed map studies of the battles that give a map-by-map detailed explanation of these battles. "The Maps of the Wilderness" and "The Maps of Spotsylvania Through Cold Harbor" are highly recommended. For briefer and more recent books, I recommend Chris Mackowski's "Hell Itself: The Battle of the Wilderness" and his book "A Season of Slaughter: The Battle of Spotsylvania Court House". Both of these books from the Emerging Civil War Series.

### **Art Boerner Receives Life Member Award**

Art Boerner was awarded the "Life Member Award" at the November meeting for outstanding service rendered to the Round Table over the past 25 years. The Life Member Award is given to those who have made outstanding contributions to the Round Table and is the highest honor given by the Round Table. During his time as a member, Art has served as President four times and has been on the Board of Directors for twenty years where he is the official enforcer of Robert's Rules of Order in the Board's meetings. Without Art there would have been no Bourbon and BBQ. When Doug Krawczyk came up with the idea of a Bourbon and BBQ fundraiser some twelve years ago, Art volunteered to host the event at his beautiful home in southern Indiana on the banks of the Ohio river. Art also became the master chef of the event. Starting at the crack of dawn, Art would smoke several racks of ribs for the event and anyone who has attended the event will testify that these were the best ribs ever! It is safe to say there would have been no Bourbon and BBQ without Art. Our thanks to Art for his many years of service! Without members like Art, the Round Table would not be the outstanding organization that we are. We are dependent on those willing to donate their time and energy to making our Round Table one of the best in the country.



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## Round Table Member Jean Marlowe Has Article Published

Congratulations to Round Table member Jean Marlow who recently has her article published in the Filson Historical Society's Ohio Valley History publication (Fall 2023. Vol. 23. No 3). The article is "The 1860-1861 Kentucky State Guard amid the Political Struggle over Kentucky's Destiny". Jean holds a B.A. summa cum laude, and an M.A. in art history from the University of Louisville and is a member of our Round Table.

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### NOVEMBER 2023 QUIZ:

1. Who was President Andrew Johnson's Vice President?  
*He didn't have one.*
2. Who commanded the Cavalry Corps of the Army of Northern Virginia during the Appomattox Campaign?  
*It was commanded by Major General Fitzhugh Lee, General Lee's nephew.*
3. What was the last battle of the Civil War in Virginia?  
*The Battle of Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865 was the last battle in Virginia.*
4. To whom did General U.S. Grant deliver his famous "unconditional and immediate surrender" terms?  
*He delivered them to Confederate General Simon Buckner at Fort Donelson, Tennessee in February, 1862.*
5. What was Union General William T. Sherman's attitude toward newsmen?  
*He was a relentless enemy of newsmen.*

### DECEMBER 2023 QUIZ:

1. Who was the Confederate Secretary of War in April 1865?
2. Who was the United States Secretary of War in April 1865?
3. After Virginia, which Southern state had the largest enslaved population in 1860?
4. Why were Union Generals James Ledlie and Edward Ferrera censured after the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, Virginia?
5. What famous message did Union General William T. Sherman send to President Lincoln on December 22, 1864?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

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Attest:

John Davis  
Adjutant

By Order of:

Julie Bartlett  
President