

Circular Memorandum #548

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September 2023

Announcing Our 574th Meeting

"The Fortress War: How the United States Defeated the Confederacy Yet Lost the Peace"

Will be Presented by Thomas Flagel

DATE: Sunday, September 10

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 Thomas Flagel

Thomas Flagel is a professor of History at Columbia State Community College in Tennessee. He holds degrees from Loras College (B.A., History), Kansas State University (M.A., European History), Creighton University



(M.A., International Relations), Middle Tennessee State University (PhD., Public History) and has studied at the University of Vienna. Author of several books and articles on the Civil War. Among the books Flagel has written are *The History Buff's Guide to the Civil War*, *The History Buff's Guide to the Presidents: Top Ten Rankings of the Best and Worst*, *The History Buff's Guide to World War II*, *The History Buff's Guide to Gettysburg*, *War, Memory, and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion*, *Gettysburg Battle Briefings (volume 3)* *An Introduction to the Battle*. His latest book is about his speaking topic and will be out soon. Flagel has spoken multiple times at Gettysburg, including the 150th Anniversary Commemoration. He has also worked with multiple historic preservation groups, including the American Battlefield Trust and the National Park Service.

Originally from Iowa, he currently resides in Franklin, Tennessee. He has also lived in Austria and the Czech Republic. Among his ancestors are several American Civil War veterans, including a great, great, great grandfather from the 2nd Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

The Fortress War: How the United States Defeated the Confederacy Yet Lost the Peace

Based on his upcoming book, Dr. Thomas Flagel illustrates the pivotal use of fortifications in the Civil War. While the conflict famously involved approximately 10,000 battles and skirmishes (some of which lasted for days), often overlooked are more than 1,000 individual fortifications (many of which operated for years). The vast majority were US sites, which transferred enormous amounts of resources from the Confederacy to the Federal war effort. In addition, these forts became *the* primary portals for enslaved self-emancipation. Yet once the war was over, the US government rapidly abandoned these strongholds, creating power vacuums that quickly reestablished the prewar status quo, leaving generations of Unionists black and white to wonder what might have been.

Books! Books! Books!

We will have copies of Thomas Flagel's books for sale at the meeting!

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

This is a Sunday Meeting!

Reservations

RESERVATIONS: Please Note!!! If you email Bryan Winslow and **do not** receive confirmation, you need to call Doug Krawczyk (502-592-6864) and make your reservation. Not receiving confirmation via email means you do not have a reservation, and this is a problem for Big Spring as they need an accurate count of our reservations so they can prepare enough fried chicken for us!

RESERVATIONS: Call Doug Krawczyk (502-592-6864) to place your reservations. If you are making reservations for more than just yourself, please give the names of the others. If you leave your reservation on his answering machine, please spell out your name so he can correctly identify you. You can also make your reservation by e-mail by sending it to bryanw@macconstruction.com. If you do not receive confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Thursday, September 7**, by noon. If you wish to join us just for the program, please call and make a reservation so that we can provide you with a chair. If you are only coming for the program, you can call Doug anytime up to 4:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Reminder for Table Reservations: We can reserve tables for parties of **eight**, and we need you to provide us with the names of all the people in your party when you make the reservation. This will enable us to manage our meeting space in a more efficient manner. Thank you.

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It is Time for Membership Renewals

Patron Memberships Are a Major Boost to the Round Table

The annual membership fees of the Round Table are now due and there is good news! Any amount you give above the basic or family membership fee is **tax-deductible** since the Round Table has tax-exempt status as a 501 (c) (3) organization! Following is a description of four membership options from which you can choose. Please read carefully the following explanations so that you will understand what your choices are. First, you may choose a single membership. Your membership dues will be \$50 and this will allow you to attend all Round Table meetings and events. The second option is a family membership for \$60. Under this option, you may choose to add a spouse, son or daughter as a member. For each family member, the cost will be an additional \$5. For example,

the cost for three family members would be \$65. A family is defined as anyone living in the same household. Thus, two brothers who live in the same house can join on a family membership. By choosing this option, the spouse or family member will be recognized as a member of the Round Table, will be eligible to be elected to the Board of Directors, can serve on committees appointed by the President, and will receive a name tag to wear at the meetings. The third option is a special category of membership called **Patron**, which was introduced in 1998 and has been a big success. This option allows members who so desire to make a contribution with their membership dues to the Round Table above the usual cost of membership. This is for members who want to make a financial gift because they believe the Round Table is a worthy organization and they wish to show their appreciation and ensure its ongoing success. **Patron memberships start at \$75** and can include a family membership. Of course, you can contribute more if you wish. Patron memberships provide no additional benefits to members but simply give the individuals the satisfaction of supporting our Round Table with a financial gift. The additional funds raised through this option will allow the Round Table to take a more active role in the Preservation of Civil War battlefields and sites and also help pay the costs of bringing the very best Civil War speakers to our meetings. A fourth option is a **Student membership for \$10**. **Note: Please send your renewal check made out to LCWRT directly to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road - #142, Louisville, Ky., 40241.**

Option One: Regular Membership	\$50	Basic membership.
Option Two: Family Membership	\$60	A spouse or family member living at the same address can also join +\$5 for each additional family member.
Option Three: Patron Membership	\$75+	Membership with tax-deductible gift to LCWRT.
Option Four: Student Membership	\$10	Student membership.

Meet Our New President - Julie Bartlett!

Greetings fellow Round Table members. I am so honored to serve the group this year as president of the best CWRT in the country. The Board of Directors are on the top of their game this year with a fantastic line-up of speakers, an exciting field trip to the Wilderness -Spotsylvania battlefields in the spring, AND, we will be



adding an online credit card payment option for the meetings, field trip, and membership renewal. You will also be able to pay with a credit card at the sign-in desk upon arrival. In addition to myself, we will be introducing you to our new treasurer and web master who have been instrumental in helping make these changes happen. I have been an active LCWRT member for 10 years, a board member for 3 years, and finally got to go on the field trip to Gettysburg. I am also still working as a UPS pilot, so our president-elect, John Davis, may be running the meetings from time to time. Congratulations to John for being elected again! He is the backbone of our Round Table and we are so very lucky to have him working hard behind the scenes. I have a board interest in American history, WWI, and WWII history. I have a history reading list a mile long that I dream of diving into - I am always so delighted to get a door prize at the meetings to add to my plight.

At the book sales I inevitably leave with an armfull!! I would also like to introduce you to my husband, Mike Kurowski. He is a retired cost accountant and history buff. He has been a member for nearly 10 years and also participated in the Gettysburg field trip. You will notice a few price increases this year. It has been a loooong time since we have raised membership dues. Speaker costs are driving part of this increase. Please consider renewing at the Patron Level of \$75 or more. There is now a Patron Perk! Patron Level members will enjoy a discounted price for the B&BBQ fundraiser. Please take a look at Doug's flyer for all the details. And finally, the difference in cost between the Patron and basic membership would be tax deductible. There is quite a bit to look forward to in the upcoming 2023-24 season, not to mention the fried chicken. Thank you all for supporting the LCWRT. If we have not met, please, come and have a chat with me during the social period before the meeting. - Julie

2023 - 2024 Schedule

Sunday September 10	Thomas Flagel	"Winning the War and Losing the Peace:" Union Forts in the Civil War"
Sunday October 8	Emily Lapisardi	"Rose Greenhow Confederate Spy"
Saturday November 4	Richard McMurray	"The Historian and the General: Researching and and Writing About Ole Joe Johnston"
Saturday December 9	Stuart Sanders	"Anatomy of a Duel: Secession, Civil War, and the Evolution of Kentucky Violence"
Sunday January 14	Kent Masterson Brown	"TBA"
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 or you can sign up at the meetings beginning in September.

LOUISVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

11th ANNUAL BOURBON & BBQ FUND RAISER

A Taste of the Civil War:

Dr. William Forrester

&

Old Forester Bourbon

Location:

Farmington
3033 Bardstown Rd.
Louisville, Ky.



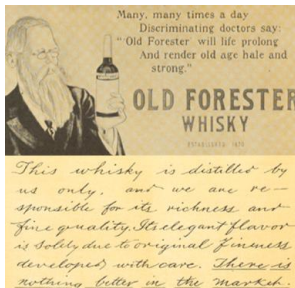
Date:

Sunday
Oct. 15th 2023
Time: 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm



TASTING & HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

Chris Morris



Courtesy of Brown-Forman



Master Distiller-Emeritus

Old Forester's
Whiskey Row Series



Tasting Expressions:

1870, 1897, 1910 & 1920

BBQ RIBS & PULLED PORK

PLUS!

FIXIN'S, SAUCES, SIDES & DESSERTS

CATERED BY KINGSLEY MEATS

\$75.00 Patron Member/\$85.00 M

\$95 Non-Member

Covers **Welcome Cocktail, Food,**

Tasting & Historical Presentation

MAIL CHECK TO
LCWRT

9462 Brownsboro Rd.
#142

Louisville, KY. 40241
Credit cards accepted

LIMITED SEATING

Reservations Required**

Phone: (502) 592-6864

Email: rdklou@gmail.com

**refundable if event cancelled by
LCWRT

Part of proceeds tax deductible
LCWRT 501c Non-Profit

Two Round Table Members Have Passed Away

We wish to express our condolences to the families of two of our members who passed away this summer. Jackie Powell Hopkins, a long time member of our Round Table passed away in early June, She was preceded in death by her husband Gary who was also a member of the Round Table. Dr. Alton "Sonny" Neurath (87) Also passed away this summer. Sonny and his wife, Betty, were a very sweet couple who supported the LCWRT (and Filson) for many years. Betty died a few years ago. Both regularly attended the dinner meetings. Sonny was a dentist by profession. He initially practiced in the U.S. Air Force. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to their families and friends.

SUMMER 2023 QUIZ:

1. Who was the last Confederate general to die during the Civil War?
That was Brigadier General James Dearing from Virginia, who was mortally wounded at the Battle of High Bridge on April 6, 1865 and died in Lynchburg, Virginia on April 22, 1865.
2. What Confederate commerce raider (ship) was still attacking U.S. whaling ships during the summer of 1865?
The C.S.S. Shenandoah did not learn of the ending of the Civil War until August 3, 1865. It then sailed to Liverpool, England and surrendered to British authorities on November 6, 1865.
3. Although U. S. Grant died in 1885 and R. E. Lee died in 1870, they were the same age when they died. How old were they?
They were both 63 years old.
4. How many stars were on United States flags in April, 1865?
There were 35 stars as the 36th star had not yet been added. Actually, the United States Government did not remove any stars from the flag for the states that seceded to join the Confederacy.
5. What famous World War II general's father served with the 24th Wisconsin Division in the Civil War?
Arthur MacArthur was the father of General Douglas MacArthur.

SEPTEMBER 2023 QUIZ:

1. Where was Fort Darling?
2. What was the name of General Ulysses S. Grant's horse?
3. Who wrote the original order of General Robert E. Lee's Farewell Address?
4. Who first commanded the Union's Irish Brigade?
5. What family owned the farmhouse that General George Meade used as his headquarters at Gettysburg?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

Attest:

John Davis
Adjutant

By Order of:

Julie Bartlett
President