

Circular Memorandum #522

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January 2021

Announcing Our 552nd Meeting

This is the Round Table's 60th Anniversary Meeting!

"Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command"

Will be Presented by Kent Masterson Brown

DATE: Saturday, January 16

PROGRAM: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Your Home

Meet our Speaker Kent Masterson Brown

We welcome back Kent Masterson Brown who will deliver the **26th Annual Frank Rankin Lecture**. Kent was born in Lexington, Kentucky on February 5, 1949. He is a 1971 graduate - and in 2014 named a distinguished graduate - of Centre College and received his juris doctor degree in 1974 from Washington and Lee University School of Law. Kent has practiced law for forty-four years with offices in Lexington and Washington, DC. Kent has published six books, all on the Civil War, including *Cushing of Gettysburg: The Story of a Union Artillery Commander*, *Retreat from Gettysburg: Lee, Logistics and the Pennsylvania Campaign*, and *One of Morgan's Men: The Memoirs of Lieutenant John M. Porter of the Ninth Kentucky Cavalry*; they have been selections of the History Book Club and Military Book Club. All of them have received rave reviews and numerous national awards. He is currently writing *George Gordon Meade and the Gettysburg Campaign*, which will go to press in the spring of 2021.



Kent has also written, hosted, and produced eight award-winning documentary films for public and cable television, including: *Bourbon and Kentucky: A History Distilled*, *Henry Clay and the Struggle for the Union*, *Unsung Hero: The Horse in the Civil War*, *Daniel Boone and the Opening of the American West*, and "I Remember The Old Home Very Well:" *The Lincolns in Kentucky*. All Kent's films have been widely broadcast throughout the United States, Canada, and overseas. Two of his films, *Daniel Boone* and *The Lincolns in Kentucky*, won the regional television ratings when they were premiered on Kentucky Educational Television. All have won Telly Awards; *Unsung Hero* was nominated for an Emmy Award.

A nationally known speaker and Civil War battlefield guide, Kent was the first chairman of the Gettysburg National Military Park Advisory Commission and the first chairman of the Perryville (Kentucky) Battlefield Commission, a seat he held for eleven years overseeing the expansion of the Perryville Battlefield. He served on the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and is now a member of the Kentucky Film Commission. He has also been a director of the Gettysburg Foundation. Kent is now the President and Content Developer for the Witnessing History Education Foundation, Inc. Kent lives in Lexington with his wife, Genevieve, and their three children, Annie Louise, Philip and Thomas.

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George Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command

General George G. Meade may have been the object of some of the most scathing commentary ever written about a Union general in the Civil War. Much of that criticism originated with President Lincoln and his inner circle of civilian officials in the White House. In spite of his remarkable victory in the largest land engagement ever fought on the North American Continent, and the first victory for the Army of the Potomac since the war began, Meade was accused of not aggressively pursuing Lee's retreating army and even "allowing" that enemy to escape across the Potomac River. He was accused of failing to attack and "destroy" Lee's army when he had, in Lincoln's words, a "golden opportunity" to do so on July 13 and 14 between Hagerstown and Falling Waters. He was accused of lacking "moral courage" by holding too many councils of war, an accusation that arose out of him calling a council of war on July 12, the result of which was to call off an attack against Lee's positions that Meade himself had determined to launch. Those criticisms led to Meade even being responsible for General Sickles's ill conceived, and, frankly, insubordinate, move of his Third Corps ahead of the defense line of the army at Gettysburg that Meade established on July 1 and 2, and calling a council of war on the evening of July 2 because he wanted to retreat from Gettysburg. Those criticisms still abound as contemporary authors universally mimic Lincoln and his White House confidants rather than examine the circumstances that Meade confronted. My new book, *Meade at Gettysburg: A Study in Command*, to be released by the University of North Carolina Press on June 7, 2021, is a defense of General Meade, the first such book since Meade's son published *With Meade at Gettysburg* not long after his father died. I will address the foregoing questions and more during my talk.

The January Meeting Will Be a Zoom Meeting

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the January meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Big Spring Country Club, our meeting place, has informed us that they will be closed in January 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. At the end of the talk you will be able to ask questions just as if you were at a meeting at Big Spring by using the chat function. 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"!

Email Addresses - Very Important for Webinars

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 January 15 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 Update

While we are still hoping to go to Gettysburg this spring **April 21-25, 2021**, we are closely monitoring the Covid situation. The Round Tables Board of Directors will be meeting in January and will address the situation and decide if the trip can be made. We should have a good idea of when the vaccine will be distributed and how effective it will be. We must have at least 35 people to make the trip financially feasible. Regardless of what we decide, rest assured we will be going to Gettysburg! It may not be this spring, but we will go. We just have to make sure we can safely go and that it will be a good experience for everyone. We are now ready to take your reservations. If the trip is canceled, and at this time we can't predict what the Covid situation will be at that time, you will receive a full refund of any fees you have paid including the \$200 non-refundable deposit. You can now make your \$200 non-refundable deposit that will guarantee you a reservation. This deposit needs to be made by the February 13 meeting. The balance will be due in March. We anticipate this will be about \$200. You will also be responsible for your hotel room and for some of your meals. Once you make your \$200 non-refundable deposit and the trip goes off as planned, that deposit cannot be refunded for any reason. This is necessary so that we can insure we have enough funds to finance the trip. Again, if the trip is canceled, you will receive a refund of all money you would have paid including the \$200 deposit. You can mail your deposit off \$200 non-refundable check made out to LCWRT directly to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road - #142, Louisville, Ky., 40241.

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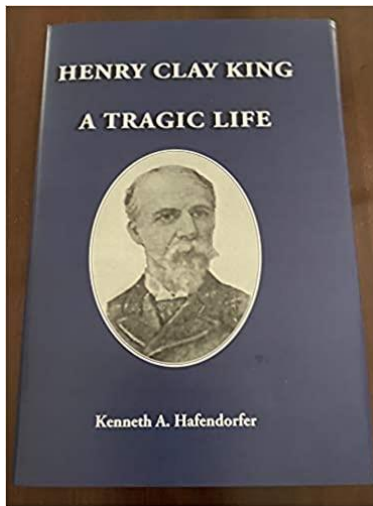
2020 - 2021 Schedule

Saturday January 16	Kent Masterson Brown	"George Meade and Gettysburg"
Saturday February 13	Robert Lee Hodge	"TBA"
Saturday March 13	Gordon Rhea	"TBA"
Saturday April 10	Tim Smith	"TBA"
Saturday May 8	Thomas Flagel	"War, Memory and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion"

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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).

A PRESERVATION 'MIRACLE' AT STONES RIVER

Buoyed by federal and state grants, the American Battlefield Trust successfully raised more than \$4 million to secure a key property that connects previously separated wings of Stones River National Battlefield

(Murfreesboro, Tenn.) - Once considered lost to the forces of development, a 42-acre property at the heart of the Stones River Battlefield will be preserved forever, thanks to the efforts of the American Battlefield Trust, federal and state agencies and a generous corporate entity. Appreciating the incredible historic significance of the site, which was previously home to a major industrial facility, [O'Reilly Auto Parts](#) sold the land to the Trust. Private donations were multiplied by landmark matching grants from the federal [American Battlefield Protection Program](#) and the [Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund](#) to ensure that the land will be protected forever.

"Five years ago, the protection of this site seemed an unachievable dream," said Trust President David Duncan. "It was atop virtually every preservationist's priority list, but we had little realistic hope of saving the largest remaining portion of the Stones River Battlefield. But sometimes miracles do happen — and we celebrate one today!"

The Trust made its first inquiries into acquiring the site along Interstate 41 in 2014, when it was owned by General Electric. After the manufacturing plant was badly damaged in a storm, GE relocated its operations, tore down the structure, and put the property up for sale for potential industrial or commercial use. The Trust attempted to negotiate purchase at that time, but the requested price was far outside the nonprofit's range.

After languishing on the market, the site was purchased by [O'Reilly Auto Parts](#) in 2016 and the Trust approached the new owner to explain the site's incredible historic significance. The Battle of Stones River was one of the most important struggles of the entire American Civil War, witnessing more than 23,500 casualties over three days of fighting. Not only did the O'Reilly parcel connect two sections of Stones River National Battlefield, but the land witnessed fierce fighting on December 31, 1862, as the final Confederate assault

against the Union left spilled out of the famous Hell's Half Acre. During this deadly contest, [Chaplain John Whitehead of the 15th Indiana moved up and down the lines providing spiritual and physical aid to the dead and dying, earning the Medal of Honor.](#)

"Having it within our power to see that such a piece of truly hallowed ground was protected forever, we decided to work with the Trust to find a win-win solution," said O'Reilly Senior Vice President of Real Estate & Expansion Scott Kraus. "As a proud American company, it is our honor and our duty to be a good corporate citizen and work for the betterment of our communities."

But a willing and generous seller did not negate that industrial land in a highly developed area carries a high price tag, and the Trust faced a daunting challenge to meet the \$4 million negotiated purchase price. Eligible for both federal and state matching grants for historic preservation, the Trust prepared application packages for both the [American Battlefield](#) Protection Program (ABPP), administered by the National Park Service, and the [Tennessee Civil War Sites Preservation Fund](#) (TCWSPF), administered by the [Tennessee Wars Commission](#) under the auspices of the Tennessee Historical Commission. Since the grant program debuted in 2013, the Tennessee Wars Commission, the entity devoted to preserving the state's significant military history, has overseen the allocation of nearly \$5 million toward the protection of significant battlefield landscapes.

"After reviewing the O'Reilly Auto Parts project, our board decided to award it the single largest grant in the history of the TCWSPF," said State Historic Preservation Officer Patrick McIntyre, who serves as executive director of the Tennessee Historical Commission. "The reclamation of this remarkable site — once thought lost forever to industrial development — is a boon to the people of the Volunteer State and the entire nation. Protection of the parcel creates significant interpretive opportunities by uniting two previously separated wings of [Stones River National Battlefield](#). "Protection of this parcel stands as one of the most significant historic preservation successes for our community in decades," said Stones River National Battlefield Superintendent Brenda Pennington. "The American Battlefield Trust's bold action has created opportunities for interpreting a site where significant events that shaped the Battle of Stones River's outcome took place. We look forward to working with American Battlefield Trust, the Friends of Stones River National Battlefield and our community to take the next steps in making this tract a place where generations of visitors can connect with the landscapes and stories of one of the most important battles of the American Civil War."

The Trust's work to protect the O'Reilly property also opened up other preservation opportunities at Stone's River. During the course of 2020, the organization successfully secured the necessary funds and acquired an adjacent six-acre parcel — another project supported by a TCWSPF grant. All told the Trust has now protected 80 acres at Stones River and 3,652 acres across Tennessee.

"These preservation victories enrich a treasured resource in our community," said [Friends of Stones River National Battlefield](#) President Ed Arning. "We are excited by the opportunities for stewardship and interpretation they present, and thankful for the dynamic partnerships that resulted in this achievement."

The [Battle of Stones River](#) was fought in bitterly cold rain and sleet, from December 31, 1862 through January 2, 1863. Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans' Union forces met Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate Army just north of Murfreesboro, and the inevitable engagement erupted on New Year's Eve. The heavy fighting continued on both sides for three days and, while a tactical draw, would prove to be a key strategic Union victory. Bragg abandoned the field on January 3 and, with it, Confederate aspirations for control of Middle Tennessee. Of the more than 80,000 soldiers who struggled at Stones River, nearly a third became casualties. 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](#).

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DECEMBER 2020 QUIZ:

1. Why was each Union army enrollee's teeth closely examined by surgeons?
He had to be able to bite and tear cartridges in loading his gun.
2. What was Union General Ambrose Burnside's second attempt to cross the Rappahannock River near Fredericksburg, Virginia called?
It was called the Mud March.
3. Which side won the Battle of Missionary Ridge?
The Union is credited with the win.
4. Who stabbed Secretary of State William Seward?
He was stabled by Lewis Payee or Paine, who was also known as Lewis Powell.
5. How many brothers-in-law did President Lincoln have serving in the Confederate Army?
He had six—David, George, Samuel, Alexander "Aleck" Todd, Nathaniel H. R. Dawson, and Benjamin Hardin Helm.

JANUARY 2021 QUIZ:

1. Who was the last Confederate general of a significant Confederate force to surrender during the Civil War?
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?
3. What Union officer was both a general in the U.S. Army and an admiral in the U.S. Navy?
4. What was the name of the first ship in history to be sunk in combat by a submarine?
5. What was considered the bloodiest action of the Vicksburg Campaign?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

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Civil War Art for Sale

Ed Sitzler is wanting to sell his father's Civil War art collection. For more information you can call Ed Sitzler at 502-551-0518.

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Dave Hoffmann
President**