



Circular Memorandum #520

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November 2020

Announcing Our 550th Meeting

**"The Battle of Atlanta July 22, 1864"
Will be Presented by Gary Ecelbarger**

DATE: Saturday, November 14

PROGRAM: 7:00 P.M.

Location: Your Home

Meet Our Speaker - Gary Ecelbarger



Gary Ecelbarger, a former president of the Bull Run CWRT, is a quarter-century veteran of American history symposia and tours. He is the author of seven books on Civil War personalities and battles including *We Are In For It!* and *Three Days in the Shenandoah Valley*, both about Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley campaign. He has co-authored two Time-Life Books and has also published more than two dozen articles and monographs of 18th and 19th-Century personalities and events. He is the only author of a book-length treatment of the Battle of Atlanta--*The Day Dixie Died*--which won the Albert Castel Award for top western theater book and was also cited as one of the top eight Civil War battle/campaign books recommended by the American Battlefield Trust. Born and raised eight miles upriver from Niagara Falls, Ecelbarger obtained his M.S. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and had lived nearly 30 years in Northern Virginia with his wife and three children. He is currently writing a campaign biography of George Washington in 1777-1778.

The Battle of Atlanta July 22, 1864

One of the most dramatic and important battles ever waged on American soil, the Battle of Atlanta changed the course of the Civil War and helped decide a presidential election. Confederate forces under John Bell Hood tore into U.S. forces with assault after assault. Gary Ecelbarger will re-create this dramatic battle and show how the battle was the game-changing event in the larger Atlanta campaign.

The November Meeting Will Be a Zoom Meeting

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the November meeting will be a Zoom meeting. Big Spring Country Club, our meeting place, has informed us that they will be closed in November and December and we are going to hold these meetings as Zoom meetings on the scheduled dates 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.

Zoom Meetings for the LCWRT

In February 2020, the word zoom meant "to enlarge an image or to go speedily," but in March the definition changed to, "an online computer platform to connect with others during a pandemic." I am sure by now many of us have zoomed to the end of our patience, but Zoom is a brilliant way to use technology to stay connected.

Zoom Webinars allow you to watch a live presenter and ask questions via text without the hassles of connecting with a camera/microphone. The added feature though is being able to ask a question to the presenters via typing a short text on your computer.

You need three things: an (1) internet connection, (2) a computer OR notebook (ex. Ipad, Galaxy Pad), OR a mobile phone onto which you will need to download Zoom from Zoom.us, and (3) an email address where the invitation/computer link can be sent. Zoom Webinars DO NOT let you use a camera/microphone to connect so the hassles of worrying about being seen or heard are not an issue.

How will it work? A few days before the meeting, a link will be sent to the viewer's email. The viewer clicks on the link a few minutes before the assigned Webinar time, and then watches the live presentation. You can ask a question to the presenter via text. Please ask your questions at the end of the presentation.

The Louisville Civil War Round Table will be hosting Zoom WEBINAR meetings On November 14 and December 5. We would love to have you join us for these virtual gatherings. And do not let the technology scare you - Zoom Webinars are easy.

Practice Zoom Webinar Prior to our November Meeting

One week prior to our November program with Gary Ecelbarger, we will host a Zoom Practice Session. On Saturday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. we will host a PRACTICE Zoom Webinar. This session will allow you to make sure your computer connects correctly, and it will allow you to practice sending a text message during a session. If you are already familiar with this technology, you can skip this session; however, if you would like to check a Webinar format prior to our upcoming Zoom Webinars with our Fall Speakers, please join us.

We will send all members an email link to the PRACTICE Zoom Webinar. Using this link you can log onto the Practice Webinar. Details will be sent in the email to you. Our speaker for the Practice Zoom Webinar will be our President, Dave Hoffmann.

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 don't have to dress "up"!

Email Addresses - Very Important for Webinars

In order 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 don't have email addresses for, you will receive a request in your mailed newsletter to email me so I will have your email address before the practice session on November 7, or by November 10 so you can attend the November 14 meeting. 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.

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2020 - 2021 Schedule

Saturday November 14	Gary Ecelbarger	"The Battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864"
Saturday December 5	Eric Wittenberg	"Seceding from Secession: The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia"
Saturday January 16	Kent Masterson Brown	"Lee's Retreat From 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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Signup Information for Field Trip to Gettysburg

Here is some good news, we are scheduled to go to Gettysburg next spring **April 21-25, 2021!** Yes, we know that the Covid situation will call for us to take special precautions and we will do that, but we believe the situation may allow us to make this exciting trip. 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.

So, mark your calendars and keep studying and reading. Our guide will be **James Hessler**, a veteran of 20 plus years of giving tours at Gettysburg as a licensed guide. He recently conducted tours at Gettysburg for the Lincoln Forum and has an impressive resume. James is currently conducting tours and he is excited about our group coming to Gettysburg next April.

Lt. Colonel Gordon E. Smith



Round Table member Gordon Smith passed away at Taylor Regional Hospital of covid pneumonia, September 20, 2020, at the age of 92. Gordon and his wife, Betty Jane, have been members of the Round Table for many years. Gordon was born March 26, 1928 in Mimico, a suburb of Toronto, Canada. He had an identical twin brother, Bruce, and an older sister, Joyce.

A graduate of Mimico High School, he received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Philosophy in 1951 and a Master of Arts in Philosophy from Toronto University in 1952. He earned a second Master of Arts in Russian Language and Literature from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1968.

Gordon entered the Canadian Army in 1951 and was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland and Montreal, Quebec. As a member of the United Nations Emergency Forces, he served in the Middle East in Lebanon, Egypt, and the Gaza Strip. He departed regular service in 1960 with the rank of Captain.

He served in the Canadian Army Reserves, 1971 to 1978, and rose to the rank of Lt. Colonel, being a member of the Officer Group, Canadian National Defense

Head Quarters. He enrolled in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and received an ABD in Russian Language and Literature. He studied twice at Moscow State University.

Gordon and his twin brother were gifted in learning languages. He was fluent in French, Russian, Portuguese, and comfortable in Italian and other romance and Slavic languages. Gordon spent most of his career as a teacher at various schools retiring from the classroom after 25 years. After his retirement Gordon translated novels from Russian into English. He was member of the Canadian Professional Translators Association.

While still in Ontario, he was a member of the Royal Canadian Military Institute and served on the Board of Markland Woods Country Club in Etobicoke where he golfed practically every day that weather permitted.

While on a trip to East Central Europe, he met Betty Jane Gorin. He came to the United States and taught Russian Translation at Indiana University. On October 3, 1991, they married, it being the first wedding in the Hiestand House Museum in Campbellsville. A gifted teacher, he taught ESL and Russian for Campbellsville University. He was a faithful member of the Men's Sunday School Class at Campbellsville Baptist Church and a loyal member of the Campbellsville Country Club. His perfect day was teaching at the university in the morning and playing golf in the afternoon. He retired teaching from CU in 2010, age 82. He edited his wife's book, *Morgan Is Coming! Confederate Raiders in the Heartland of Kentucky* in 2005. A Life Scout in Canada (Eagle in US), he supported Boy Scouts in this country. A member of the Louisville Civil War Round Table, he supported the Speed Museum, KET, Public Radio, CARE, and Doctors Without Borders. He never met a stranger.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Jane, her children, and the children of his brother and sister. Gordon was buried in Brookside Cemetery, Campbellsville, KY. Memorials in Gordon's memory can be made to Tebbs Bend Battlefield, Box 394, Campbellsville, Hiestand House-Taylor Co Museum, 1075 Campbellsville Bypass, Campbellsville, KY 42718. Our deepest sympathies go out to Betty and her family and friends. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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Peach Britain

Round Table member Peach Britain Louisville passed away on Monday, October 19, 2020 at the age of 83. She was born on April 10, 1937 in Fostoria, Ohio. Peach loved travel, playing the stock market, and antiques, so much so that she eventually came to own Pendragon Antique Shop in Cincinnati. She later started as a temporary secretary at CRT-NationsBank in Chicago, and worked her way up to become Vice President and Director of the Travel Center. She is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Ron Britain; and their son Mark Magel (Nina Romanoff) of Croton-on-Hudson, NY. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Ron and Peach's family and friends.

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Thomas Mackey Has New Book on Lincoln

Round Table member Thomas Mackey has a new book out entitled *Opposing Lincoln, Clement L. Vallandigham, Presidential Power, and the Legal Battle over Dissent in Wartime*. In a time of great national division, a time of threats of resistance and counterthreats of suppression, a controversial president takes drastic measures to rein in his critics, citing national interest, national security, and his obligations as chief executive. If this seems familiar in our current moment of intense political agitation, that is all the more reason to attend to Thomas Mackey's gripping, learned, and eminently readable account of the Civil War-era case of Clement L. Vallandigham, an Ohio congressman arrested for campaigning against the war and President Lincoln's policies. In Mackey's telling, the story of this prominent "Copperhead," or Southern sympathizer, illuminates the problem of internal security, loyalty, and disloyalty faced by the Lincoln administration during wartime—and, more generally, the problem of determining the balance between executive power and tyranny, and between dissent and treason.

Opposing Lincoln explores Vallandigham's opposition not only to Lincoln and his administration but also to Lincoln's use of force and his executive orders suspending habeas corpus. In addition to tracing Vallandigham's experiences of being arrested, tried, convicted by military commission instead of civilian courts, and then

banished from the United States, this historical narrative introduces readers to Lincoln's most important statements on presidential powers in wartime, while also providing a primer on the wealth of detail involved in such legal and military controversies. Examining the long-standing issue of the limits of political dissent in wartime, the book asks the critical historical question of what reasonable lengths a legitimate government can go to in order to protect itself and its citizens from threats, whether external or internal. The book is available on Amazon.com.

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OCTOBER 2020 QUIZ:

1. In 1862 the *Atlantic Monthly* printed a poem which was to become a famous song. What was that song?
It was THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC.
2. What Union unit suffered more casualties in a single day of combat throughout the war?
On June 18, 1864 the 1st Regiment Maine Volunteer Heavy Artillery at Petersburg, Virginia suffered 7 officers and 108 men killed and another 25 officers and 464 men wounded.
3. Where did Stonewall Jackson die?
He died at Guiney's Station near Fredericksburg, Virginia.
4. Why has one of several photographs taken of President Lincoln in February 1864 become famous?
It was used on the five dollar bill.
5. Where was Jefferson Davis inaugurated as the provisional President of the Confederacy?
This took place at Montgomery, Alabama on February 18, 1861.

NOVEMBER 2020 QUIZ:

1. What was Confederate General W.B. Jones' nickname?
2. On which side did poet Sidney Lanier serve?
3. Who wrote "The Bivouac of the Dead"?
4. What Union general had the honor of receiving the surrender of General Lee's army?
5. What Confederate general escaped from the Ohio State Penitentiary?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Dave Hoffmann
President**