

Circular Memorandum #530

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November 2021

Announcing Our 557th Meeting

"Radical Warrior: August Willich"

Will be Presented by David Dixon

DATE: Saturday, November 6

Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$30.00): 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.



David Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most focus on Union sympathizers in the Civil War South.

David spoke at the 2016 Sacred Trust Talks in Gettysburg and has delivered nearly 100 talks to audiences across the country. He appeared on Civil War Talk Radio and other podcasts. He hosts B-List History, a website that features obscure characters and their compelling stories. You may download free pdf versions of his published articles on that website at www.davidtdixon.com.

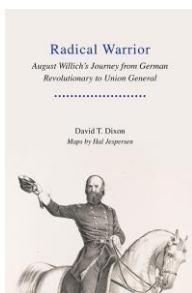
David's latest book is the biography of German revolutionary and Union General August Willich and was published by the University of Tennessee Press in September 2020. It highlights the contributions of more than 200,000 German-American immigrants to the Union effort in the Civil War. Transatlantic radicals like Willich viewed the war as part of a much larger, global revolution for social justice and republican government.

His current project is a biography that highlights the role of emotions in Southern allegiance in the Civil War.

Radical Warrior: August Willich

Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General (University of Tennessee Press 2020) is the biography of a Prussian army officer who renounced his nobility and joined in the failed European revolutions of 1848. He emigrated to America, edited a daily labor newspaper in Cincinnati, and became one of the most accomplished generals in the Union Army. This story sheds new light on the contributions of 200,000 German-Americans who fought for the Union in the Civil War.

In an age of global social, economic, and political upheaval, transatlantic radicals helped affect America's second great revolution. For many recent immigrants, the nature and implications of that revolution turned not on Lincoln's conservative goal of maintaining the national Union, but on issues of social justice, including slavery, free labor, and popular self-government. The Civil War was not simply a war to end sectional divides, but to restore the soul of the nation, revive the hopes of democrats worldwide, and defend human rights.



"Books, Books, Books!!"

We will have David Dixon's latest book, "Radical Warrior: August Willich's Journey from German Revolutionary to Union General". for sale at the November meeting.

Please Note the Price of the Buffet is now \$30!

Due to a price increase at Big Spring, the Price of the buffet is now \$30. The Round Table is paying a \$2 subsidy for the 2021-2022 season. Please read the explanation on Page 3.

Reservations

Please try and make your reservation by Monday, November 1. Our treasurer, Paul Fridell is going on a trip to Egypt on Tuesday, and he needs your reservation so that he can make the sign up sheet for the meeting.

RESERVATIONS: Please Note!!! If you email Bryan Winslow and **do not** receive a confirmation, you need to call Doug Krawczyk (502-592-6864) and make your reservation. Not receiving a 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 a confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Monday, November 1**, 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 six only, 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.

Price Increase at Big Spring

We were informed this summer that the price of the buffet dinner at Big Spring would increase from \$28 to \$32. It was explained that this is due to the rising costs of food and of the personnel needed to prepare and serve the dinner. The Round Table Board of Directors voted to subsidize this increase for the 2021-2022 year. At the September meeting, the Round Table paid the \$4 difference for all members. For the remainder of the year, the Round Table will pay a \$2 subsidy for each dinner so that the cost will be \$30 thru the May meeting. We feel this is still a good deal for the buffet and the facility. The normal price charged for the buffet is \$45 so we are getting a significant discount on the meal. We hate to see any price increase, but this seems to be the way things are going at present with the cost of food going up and the cost of labor rising. We are happy to report that the fried chicken tastes just as good as ever!

Please Renew Your Membership!

As we continue to monitor the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and the social unrest that has dominated our thoughts for the last six months, please know that we intend to return to our usual meetings and events as soon as possible. I mention this because it is now more important than ever that those of us who value our history must continue to do so. As stated in our by-laws, "The purpose of the Louisville Civil War Round Table, Inc. is to study all aspects of the American Civil War and to promote the interchange of knowledge about it." By studying, reading, and learning from great historians and speakers about this crucial time in our history, we insure that the sacrifices of those "who gave the last full measure" should not be forgotten or devalued and their memory forgotten. That is why I hope you will renew your membership and stay the course with us. We will come back and provide you with the very best in speakers, field trips, the Bourbon and BBQ, and yes, the fried chicken will return!

Note: Please send your renewal check made out to LCWRT directly to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road - #142, Louisville, Ky., 40241.

To Summarize the Options:

Option One: Regular Membership	\$30	Basic membership.
Option Two: Family Membership	\$35	A spouse or family member living at the same address can also join +\$5 for each additional family member.
Option Three: Patron Membership	\$55+	Membership with tax-deductible gift to LCWRT.
Option Four: Student Membership	\$10	Student membership.

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2021 - 2022 Schedule

Saturday November 6	David Dixon	"Radical Warrior: General August Willich"
Saturday December 4	Wayne Motts	"Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Confederate General Lewis A. Armistead"
Saturday January 15	Kent Masterson Brown	"Lee's Retreat From Gettysburg"

Saturday February 12	Dr. Curtis Fields	"U.S. Grant and Kentucky"
Saturday March 12	Michael Parrish	"The Importance of Texas in the Civil War"
Saturday April 9	Tim Smith	"TBA"
Saturday May 14	Gary Ecelbarger	"TBA"

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Field Trip to Gettysburg Scheduled for April 27 - May 1, 2022

Our Field Trip for 2022 will be to Gettysburg! We will be going to Gettysburg April 27 - May 1, 2022! Mark



your calendars now! Our guide will be James Hessler. James is a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg National Military Park. His 2009 book, *Sickles at Gettysburg*, was awarded the R.E. Lee Civil War Round Table's Bachelder Coddington Award and the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table's Distinguished Book Award as the most outstanding work on the Gettysburg Campaign. Another of his books is *Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg*, which was co-authored with Wayne Motts and released in 2015. His most recent book, *Gettysburg's Peach Orchard*, was co-authored with Britt Isenberg and released in 2019. Jim has been a guest on NPR, Travel Channel, PCN-TV, Breitbart News, and Civil War Radio. He is a popular author and speaker at Civil War Round Tables and

has taught courses for the Gettysburg Foundation and Harrisburg (PA) Area Community College. He lives in Gettysburg with his wife and children. We are now taking signups this November and we will begin collecting the \$200 non-refundable deposit that will guarantee you a reservation for the trip.

Things to Remember About Making Reservations for Gettysburg

- (1) Signing up on the sign-up sheet does not guarantee your reservation. Only paying the non-refundable \$200 deposit guarantees your reservation.
- (2) Do not pay your \$200 non-refundable deposit unless you are **absolutely sure** you can go on the trip. After the January 15th meeting, only that part of the trip fee above the \$200 non-refundable deposit will be refunded. Please understand that once you make this payment, it is **non-refundable** for any reason after the January 15th meeting.
- (3) This policy is necessary because we must make several payments in February and March for the bus, insurance, and other items in advance of the trip. We also need a guaranteed count on the number of people going so we can keep the price of the trip as low as possible.
- (4) You can sign up for the trip by either signing up at a meeting or emailing John Davis at Johnd.davis@twc.com.

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John Pelham Experiences Combat for the First Time

Source: J. H. Maxwell, *The Perfect Lion: The Life & Death of Confederate Artillerist John Pelham*. (Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 2011) 59-61.

On July 21, 1861, Lieutenant John Pelham experienced his first live action in the Civil War. The 22-year-old Pelham was fresh out of West Point where he had resigned just two weeks before graduation to join the Confederate army. Now he was in command of a battery posted on Henry House Hill where he would come under fire for the first time. In a remarkable post-battle letter to his father which was published in a local newspaper, Pelham described his feelings with remarkable details and an honest eloquence:

I just write to let you know that we have had one of the most desperate battles ever fought on American soil. It was the most desperate—the enemy fought long and well, but victory is ours, it was a splendid victory too. Jeff Davis made his appearance on the field, just as the last of the Yankees were in full retreat. I was under a heavy fire of musketry and cannon for about seven hours, how I escaped or why I was spared a just God only knows. Rifle balls fell like hail around me. Shells burst and scattered their fragments through my battery—my horse was shot under me, but did not give out until the fight was almost over. I was compelled to take one of my Sergeant's horses and ride through. At one time I dismounted and directed the guns—one of the gunners asked me to dismount and shoot the Federals' flag down. I did so—you ought to have heard the cheers they gave me. I directed all of my guns three or four times apiece. My men were cool and brave and made terrible havoc on the enemy. They fought better than I expected they would. The highest praise is due them....

You may want to know my feelings—I felt as cool and deliberate under the shower of lead and iron as if I had been at home by our fire-side—I did not feel fear at any moment, I can't see how I escaped. A merciful Providencemust have been watching over us and our cause....

I have seen what Romancers call glorious war. I have seen it in all its phases. I have heard the booming of cannon, and the more deadly rattle of musketry at a distance—I have heard it all near by and have been under its destructive showers. I have seen men and horses fall thick and flat around me. I have seen our own men bloody and frightened flying before the enemy. I have seen them bravely charge the enemy's lines and heard the shout of triumph as they carried the position, I have heard the agonizing shrieks of the wounded and dying—I have passed over the battle field and seen the mangled forms of men and horses in frightful abundance. Men without heads, without arms, and others without legs. All this I have witnessed and more, till my heart sickens; and war is not glorious as novelists would have us believe. It is only when we are in the heat and flush of battle that it is fascinating and interesting. It is only then that we enjoy it. When we forget ourselves and revel in the destruction we are dealing around us. I am now ashamed of the feelings I had in those hours of danger. The whistling bullets and shells were music to me, I gloried in it—it delighted and fascinated me—I feared not death in any forms; but when the battle was won and I visited the field a change came over me, I see the horrors of war, but it was necessary.

We are battling for our rights and homes. Ours is a just war, a holy cause. The invader must meet the fate he deserves and we must meet him as becomes us, as becomes men....

John Pelham's first combat had been a combination of exhilaration and repugnance. No one could question his bravery and competence; He had demonstrated remarkable ability for one so youthful and inexperienced. He received numerous positive remarks from his commanders and fellow soldiers and these portended impressive accomplishments to come. His would be a brilliant career that would be cut short in the spring of 1863.

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OCTOBER 2021 QUIZ:

1. What two armies fought the Battle of Nashville?
They were the Army of the Tennessee (Confederate) and the Army of the Cumberland (Union).
2. What military action cut off Wilmington, North Carolina as a blockade-running port?
That was the capture of Fort Fisher, North Carolina on January 13-15, 1865.
3. Who was with John Wilkes Booth during his escape?
David Herold was with Booth.
4. What was the major Civil War battle fought in Florida?
At the Battle of Olustee, fought on February 20, 1864, Confederate troops under General Joseph Finegan defeated Union troops under General Truman Seymour.
5. What Union general commanded the occupation of Richmond, Virginia?
That was Major General Godfrey Weitzel.

NOVEMBER 2021 QUIZ:

1. According to the 1860 Census, what state had the largest population of free African Americans?
2. Who served as the Chief of Artillery for the Army of the Potomac during much of the Civil War?
3. What was the nickname for Fort Mahone in Petersburg, Virginia?
4. Who was considered the "railroad genius" of the Union Army?
5. What is the *official* date for the end of the Civil War?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

Attest:

John Davis
Adjutant

By Order of:

Art Boerner
President