



Circular Memorandum #529

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October 2021

Announcing Our 556th Meeting

**"Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln: A Comparison"**

**Will be Presented by William C. Davis**

**DATE: Sunday, October 10**

**Location: Big Spring Country Club**

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

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

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

### **Meet Our Speaker - William C. "Jack" Davis**

We welcome back longtime friend of the Round Table William C. "Jack" Davis. Specializing in the American Civil War, Davis has twice been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize (for *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol* and *Battle at Bull Run*). He has written more than 40 books on the American Civil War and other aspects of early southern U.S. history. He is the only three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Prize for Confederate history and was awarded the Jules F. Landry Award for Southern history.



Davis earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts of History in 1969 from Sonoma State University. For many years he was editor and publisher of *Civil War Times Illustrated* and lived in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Davis's expertise on Confederate and southern U.S. history has made him a valued consultant for newspaper articles as well as television productions, including the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal". Davis served as a consultant for the creation of a United States postage stamp of Jefferson Davis and has had input into the formation of the Museum of the Civil War in Petersburg, Virginia.

He was awarded the Sonoma State University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993. He is a past president of the National Historical Society. In 2000, Davis became a professor at Virginia Tech, where he served as director of programs for the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies. He is now retired and lives in Blacksburg, Virginia.

## **"Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln: A Comparison"**

Inevitably Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis have been compared to each other in their roles as commanders-in-chief, and inevitably Davis has always come out second best. Yet, a dispassionate look at their acts in office suggests that Davis deserves more credit than he has been given, and in some areas he performed as well as, if not better than, Lincoln. 'Lincoln and Davis as Presidents' takes a close look at their performance in several key areas, with results that some may find surprising.

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## **"Books, Books, Books!!"**

We will have William Davis's latest book, "The Greatest Fury: The Battle of New Orleans and the Rebirth of America" on sale at the October meeting for the incredible low price of **\$10**, a 50% discount! Come to the meeting early and get a copy as we expect that these will sell out fast.

### **Please Note this is a Sunday meeting!**

As this newsletter is being written, Big Spring has assured us that we will be able to have our meeting and the buffet as usual. But as we have learned from Covid, things can change very rapidly. If anything does change between now and the meeting, you will receive an email with the details.

### **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**

**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](mailto: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 Thursday, October 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 **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.

## **The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bourbon and BBQ Huge Success!!!**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bourbon and BBQ fundraiser was held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Fifty-five folks attended this years event and were treated to a talk on "Devils and Spirits of Kentuckiana" presented by Dr. James Fuller on a Civil War serial killer. The whiskey tasting featured Michael Veach and Indiana whiskeys. Our thanks go to everyone who attended and special thanks to Art Boerner who again hosted this event at his lovely home on the Ohio River and treated us to his wonderful smoked ribs! Thanks to everyone who attended and to everyone who contributed food and helped with the setup and clean up. It takes a lot of work by a lot of people to pull this off each year. Thank you Doug Krawczyk for directing this year's event and to Marc Oca for his great pulled pork! We raised \$2247.00 for the Round Table that will toward paying our speaker expenses this year!

### **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**

Sunday October 10	William C. Davis	"Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln: A Comparison and Evaluation"
Saturday November 6	David Dixon	"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"
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 will start taking signups this November and we will begin collecting the \$200 non-refundable deposit that will guarantee you a reservation for the trip.

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## Help Save 407 Acres of Western Theater Battlefields

### The Opportunity

Over the course of a little more than two years, five battles across three states in the Western Theater of the Civil War were fought that changed the course, and ultimately, the outcome of the American Civil War. Union and Confederate forces fought fiercely on these tracts of land to control the means of transportation in the south — both on the river and by railroad. We have an opportunity to save these lands so that the history that unfolded on these hallowed grounds is never lost or forgotten.

### The Battle of Corinth

The first small parcel of ground in Corinth, Mississippi we have an opportunity to save— just six-tenths of an acre — played a big role in the fighting, eventually giving the Union Army control of the railroads that converged there and an opportunity to strike towards the garrison city nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the South"— Vicksburg. This small parcel has been listed for sale in the local real estate market and is literally across the street from the Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center, making it an incredibly valuable addition to the National Park Service site. With your generous support, we can buy the land outright, stewarding it until we can transfer it to the Park Service.

### The Battle of Champion Hill

Recently, thanks to your generous support, we were able to meet our fundraising goal to secure a 144-acre tract at the heart of the Battle of Champion Hill. Now, the Champion family who have faithfully protected their ancestral lands since the fighting took place, have agreed to let us acquire an even larger parcel of land at the northern portion of the battlefield — 393.7 acres to be exact. Saving the Champions' land from commercial development or new housing projects is what is best for this tract so this important chapter of our nation's history can be available to future generations.

### The Siege & Battle at Port Hudson

When Confederate forces surrendered at Port Hudson, the Union Army secured a vital port on the Mississippi River. You and I have the chance to purchase — and save forever — this incredibly historic 2.6-acre tract that lies well within the Confederates' defenses that were impacted heavily by an almost nonstop bombardment of Union artillery. The property also contains a portion of the post-siege earthworks that were constructed by the Union's Corps d'Afrique, a unit that later became part of the United States Colored Troops — adding to its historic nature. Also listed for sale in the local real estate market, this tract will be a lost opportunity unless we buy it outright and care for the land until we can transfer it to the state of Louisiana for inclusion in the Port Hudson State Historic Site.

### The Battle of Chattanooga

Finally, there are two preservation opportunities that figured prominently in the Battle of Lookout

Mountain in Chattanooga. The first tract, a 7.6-acre parcel includes the area near Lookout Creek at Light's Mill, where Federal troops struck the main Confederate picket line before climbing the western slope of Lookout Mountain to launch a flank attack against Confederate forces positioned above them.

The second is a 2.2-acre tract across the street from the first tract. Both are either listed for sale or are about to be and are the envy of developers because they have easy access to Lookout Creek or can be subdivided into multiple lots for new homes.

***Given the history of all these tracts, and given the threats they face, we want to purchase them as quickly as possible. Please make your most generous gift today to help us raise \$307,450 and save 407***



critical acres of land in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee, where four decisive battles won by Union forces eventually led to the end of the war itself. Every \$1 you give will be matched by \$9.27! You can mail your gift to save these battlefields to American Battlefield Trust; P.O. Box 1751; Merrifield VA 22116. You can also visit the American Battlefield Trust website at [Battlefields.org](http://Battlefields.org).

### SEPTEMBER 2021 QUIZ:

1. Who did Carl Sandburg call the "most shot-at man" in the Civil War?  
*Sandburg claimed that was the balloonist T. S. C. Lowe.*
2. What Confederate general succeeded General Joseph Johnston when he was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862?  
*General G. W. (Gustavus Woodson) Smith replaced Johnston. The next day Smith was replaced by General Robert E. Lee.*
3. Robert Todd Lincoln, President Lincoln's oldest son, served on General Grant's staff and was present at Appomattox. What was his rank?  
*After graduating from Harvard in 1864 and attending law school for a few months, Robert was commissioned a captain on Grant's Headquarters' staff*
4. What happened to the ironclads and the other vessels of the James River Squadron when the Confederates evacuated Richmond, VA on April 2-3, 1865?  
*They were destroyed by the Confederates in the early morning hours of April 3, 1865.*
5. Who served as President Lincoln's only Secretary of State?  
*William Henry Seward served as Lincoln's sole Secretary of State and continued on through President Andrew Johnson's administration.*

### OCTOBER 2021 QUIZ:

1. What two armies fought the Battle of Nashville?
2. What military action cut off Wilmington, North Carolina as a blockade-running port?
3. Who was with John Wilkes Booth during his escape?
4. What was the major Civil War battle fought in Florida?
5. What Union general commanded the occupation of Richmond, Virginia?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

Attest:

John Davis  
Adjutant

By Order of:

Art Boerner  
President