



Circular Memorandum #519

louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com

October 2020

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October Meeting Cancelled There is Hope for November!

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the October meeting scheduled for October 10 has been cancelled. Big Spring Country Club, our meeting place has informed us that they will be closed in October. We are hopeful that we will be able to meet in November. If we are able to meet in November, it will probably be with limited numbers and we are uncertain at this time if any food would be served. We are in touch with Big Spring and are awaiting their decision on when we can hold our meetings and under what conditions. The ongoing situation that continues to develop and continues to change with the virus will dictate how soon we can meet. This situation is not just here but is affecting Round Tables and other groups that hold meeting all over the country. Our Board of Directors met on September 20 to assess the situation and the meeting focused on ways we can deal with the Covid crisis. One option we are now going forward with is to hold a **Zoom meeting** beginning with the November 14 meeting if we are still unable to meet in person at Big Spring. The Board of Directors conducted a test of using Zoom on September 24 and the results were positive. Zoom is a technology that is now being widely used by groups and businesses across the country to conduct meetings.

What is Zoom?

Zoom is a video conferencing service you can use to virtually meet with others - either by video or audio-only or both. It is free and can be downloaded on desktop computers, tablets, phones, and other mobile devices. It works on Windows, MacOS, Android and ios devices(iPhones). It is easy to use and we will give complete instructions in the November newsletter and on our website if we begin using Zoom in November. Of course, we would prefer to meet in person at Big Spring but this offers us another way to virtually meet until we can resume our normal meetings. Our November speaker, Gary Ecelbarger, is an experienced Zoom presenter and has told us he is on board with doing the meeting via Zoom if we cannot meet in person. Zoom is being used by other Round Tables and Civil War organizations and many of you are already familiar with it. If you are not, we suggest you "google" Zoom and you will find lots of information and resources on how to download and use this technology. Youtube has several instructional videos on using Zoom.

How Does Zoom Work?

This is basically how Zoom would work for a meeting. Of course, if we have a Zoom meeting in November, we will give you complete instructions. First, you will need to download the Zoom app to your cellphone, tablet, or computer. When it is time for the meeting, you would run or open Zoom and follow the link we will provide you. On the "Join Meeting" screen, you will enter a meeting ID and Password that we will give you. Then you will be in the meeting and 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. 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"!

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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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Joe Reinhart Retires as Our Webmaster

After many years of serving as the Round Table's Webmaster, Joe Reinhart is retiring from this role. Joe started our website many years ago and has maintained it ever since. We wish to offer our thanks to Joe for his service and a job well done! Joe is turning over his duties to Ken Draut, a longtime member of the Round Table. Ken has extensive experience with websites, and we are fortunate to have him step up and offer his services. Thank you, Ken! In case you did not know it, we do have a website and you can access it at <http://louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com>.

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2020 - 2021 Schedule

Friday September 11	Cancelled	Cancelled
Friday October 9	Cancelled	Cancelled
Saturday November 14	Gary Ecelbarger	"The Battle of Atlanta, July 22, 1864"
Saturday December 5	Eric Wittenberg	"Stuart's Ride in the Gettysburg Campaign"
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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Spring Field Trip 2021 to Gettysburg is ON!

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 will be much better seven months from now and we will be able to go as planned. So mark your calendars and keep studying and reading. If you are bored and want something to do, there are only about 10,000 or so books on the battle of Gettysburg to choose from. As Gary Gallagher has said in his first book of essays on the Battle of Gettysburg, "the literature on the Battle of Gettysburg dwarfs that devoted to any other military operation in American history." 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. We will have complete signup information in the November newsletter. If you signup and the trip is cancelled, you will receive a full refund.

Gordon Smith

Gordon Smith, husband of Betty Jane Gorin Smith passed away on September 20. Gordon and Betty have been members of the Round Table for a number of years. Betty posted this message after Gordon's passing: "As many know already, I lost my husband, Gordon Smith, to Covid Pneumonia on September 20, 2020. I was exposed to him; therefore, I can make no arrangements for his funeral at this time. It will be held sometime in October. An obituary will be in the newspaper before his service. Please say a prayer that I will remain Covid free." Our deepest sympathies go out to Betty and her family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

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Beverly Braverman

It was with great sadness that we learned that Beverly Braverman, passed away on September 18. She and her husband, Bob, have been members of the Round Table for several years. She was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1936 and was 84 years old at the time of her passing. In addition to her husband of 62 years, Bob, she is survived by a daughter, Chris Ann Cestaro, and her husband Arthur.



Beverly Braverman will be forever remembered as a friend to all and for her kind and generous spirit, courage, integrity, inner beauty, creativity and enthusiasm for life. She grew up Beverly Greaves in Northern New Jersey and lived for a time in Springfield, Massachusetts. She graduated from Clifton High School in Clifton, New Jersey, where she met her future husband, Robert Braverman. She graduated from The Berkley Secretarial School, in East Orange, New Jersey, and Jefferson Community College in Louisville, Kentucky, where she received her Physical Therapy Assistant degree. She was licensed as one of the first Physical Therapy Assistants in the state of Kentucky. Beverly taught in the University of Kentucky's Physical Therapy Assistants' program at Jefferson Community College in Louisville for a number of years and practiced at Suburban Hospital until she moved to Dallas, Texas, in the late 1980's. In Dallas, she was the Vice President of Operations for Bran

Management Services, Inc an international turnaround management and venture capital company. She traveled to almost 50 countries on 6 continents. Some of these same countries she visited numerous times. She had lived in fourteen houses in seven states and 11 cities.

In addition to being a member of our Round Table, Beverly was an officer of Woman of Rotary in Dallas, Texas a Texas Master Gardener, a member of the Louisville Gardener Club and the Fifth Wheel. Beverly was a member of the Louisville Boat Club, The Park City Club of Dallas, University Clubs of Chicago and Louisville. She loved sailing and was active in the Sail and Power Squadrons of Louisville and Dallas and the Cruising Club of Louisville. She was a gourmet cook and was active in educational, civic and educational affairs. She was a prodigious reader, had an abiding interest in the culinary arts, nutrition, travel and history. She was a life-long student and since returning to Louisville, a regular attendee at Bellarmine University's Veritas programs for well over 12 years. Beverly followed her family's mantra of: "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think." A memorial service was held at Pearson's on Saturday, September 26 and she was buried in Cave Hill Cemetery. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Bob and Beverly's family and friends.

Legendary Historian Ed Bearss Passes

Legendary military historian and preservationist Edwin Cole Bearss passed away September 15, peacefully and surrounded by family, at the age of 97. Ed was a frequent guest of our RoundTable and gave many great talks to us. Ed was decorated U.S. Marine veteran of the Pacific Theater of World War II, he attended college and graduate school on the GI Bill before pursuing a distinguished career in the National Park Service, ultimately rising to be chief historian of that agency in 1981. As one of the powerful voices in the Ken Burns documentary, *The Civil War*, he brought history alive for millions of Americans with his deep voice and evocative descriptions, a style once described by the *Washington Post* as nearly "Homeric monologues." Although a prolific author on topics in military history, Bearss was particularly dedicated to the importance

of preserved landscapes enhance our understanding of the past. He was among the originators of the modern battlefield preservation movement and a devoted tour guide, travelling up to 200 days per year into his 90s.



"For those of us who value the preservation and perpetuation of American history, few figures are more revered than Ed Bearss. His knowledge, passion and energy were without equal, and he will be missed tremendously by so many," said American Battlefield Trust President James Lighthizer, "Ed's decades-long commitment to protecting special places and making the stories of our past come to life laid the groundwork for organizations like ours, which will embody his legacy for generations to come. The Trust — our board and staff, as well as our members and supporters — send deepest condolences to the entire Bearss family."

Bearss, born on June 26, 1923, grew up on a Montana cattle ranch just outside the Crow Indian Reservation that includes the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Although he gravitated toward history at an early age, his passion was the Civil War - he even called his favorite milk cow "Antietam." After graduating from high school in 1941, he spent the summer hitchhiking across the country to visit battlefields. Bearss returned home and, after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, followed in the footsteps of his father and Medal of Honor-recipient older cousin to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. He left for the South Pacific in mid-July 1942 but was severely wounded on January 2, 1944 during the Battle of Suicide Creek on the island of New Britain, injuries that limited his dexterity for the remainder of his life.

After recovery and discharge, Bearss went to college and graduate school on a version of the GI Bill for veterans with disabilities. While researching his master's thesis on Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick Cleburne, he had an epiphany during a visit to Shiloh National Military Park. "I'd already realized from my service in the Marine Corps that if you're hit by small arms fire, they pretty well have to see you," he later recalled during an oral history project for the Trust. "I lived rather than died because I used the configuration of the terrain to get out of there." That hard-earned lesson in terrain helped him better understand how history could be gleaned from historic battlefield landscapes.

Bearss resolved to become a historian within the National Park Service, helping others understand the inherent connection between physical landscapes and history. His first posting was at Vicksburg, Miss., where he met his wife, fellow historian Margie Riddle, who passed away in 2006. His tireless research led to the discovery and raising of the ironclad USS *Cairo*, which is preserved within a museum that is now a fixture of Vicksburg National Military Park. In 1958, he was promoted to regional historian and played a key role in shaping the two new parks created as part of the Civil War centennial: Pea Ridge National Military Park and Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. In 1966, he was called to Washington, D.C., to join a new corps of research historians and became involved in various preservation battles.

Bearss was named chief historian of the National Park Service in 1981, and late that decade and into the next he was a key figure in the early years of the modern battlefield preservation movement. He served on the Congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission and was an early board member of the Civil War Trust, a predecessor organization of the American Battlefield Trust. He retained a position on that governing body as historian *emeritus* until his death.

Whether acting on behalf of the Trust or other organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution, Bearss was perhaps the greatest battlefield guide to ever walk a historic landscape. Writing in *Smithsonian*

Magazine in 2005, author Adam Goodheart described his presentation style as being a "battlefield voice, a kind of booming growl, like an ancient wax-cylinder record amplified to full volume—about the way you'd imagine William Tecumseh Sherman sounding, with a touch of Teddy Roosevelt charging up San Juan Hill." Tours at Trust events led by Bearss invariably booked up, often within hours, even when all options included industry-leading experts.

Bearss is the recipient of numerous awards in the fields of history and preservation; the America Battlefield Trust has named its lifetime achievement award in his honor and dedicated a monument to his achievements on Champion Hill Battlefield in Mississippi. He wrote extensively, including a three-volume history of the Vicksburg Campaign, and was a regular guest on programs for the History Channel, A&E Networks and TLC, as well as appearing throughout Ken Burns's iconic documentary *The Civil War*.

This memorial is taken from the American Battlefield Trust website.

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SEPTEMBER 2020 QUIZ:

- 1. Who was Stonewall Jackson's chief mapmaker?
That would be Captain Jed Hotchkiss.
- 2. Where was the last temporary Confederate capital?
Greensboro, North Carolina is considered by some as the "final" capital city of the Confederacy because it was the last place where the entire Confederate government met as a group before going their separate ways. Others consider Danville, Virginia as the last capital.
- 3. What Union general, because of his temper, was nicknamed Old Snapping Turtle?
That nickname was given to General Gordon Meade.
- 4. Who led the Union party that stole a southern locomotive in Georgia?
That was Union secret agent, scout, and spy James J. Andrews.
- 5. Ulysses S. Grant held the highest rank in the U.S. Army since George Washington. What was that rank?
He held the rank of Lieutenant General.

OCTOBER 2020 QUIZ:

- 1. In 1862 the *Atlantic Monthly* printed a poem which was to become a famous song. What was that song?
- 2. What Union unit suffered more casualties in a single day of combat throughout the war?
- 3. Where did Stonewall Jackson die?
- 4. Why has one of several photographs taken of President Lincoln in February 1864 become famous?
- 5. Where was Jefferson Davis inaugurated as the provisional President of the Confederacy?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Dave Hoffmann
President**