

Circular Memorandum #528

[louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com](http://louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com)

September 2021

Announcing Our 555th Meeting

**"The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan  
Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow"**

**Will be Presented by Brian Steel Wills**

**DATE: Sunday, September 12**

**Location: Big Spring Country Club**

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

**DINNER (\$28.00): 7:00 P.M.**

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

**Meet Our Speaker - Brian Steel Wills**

Brian Steel Wills is the Director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Ga. Dr. Wills is a member of the Georgia Civil War Commission and immediate past President of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table. He is also the author of numerous works



relating to the American Civil War. His latest publication is Inglorious Passages: Noncombat Deaths in the American Civil War (Kansas, 2017) received the 2018 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award winner for the best book on a Civil War topic for the year 2017 presented by the Atlanta Civil War Round Table.

His biography of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest (HarperCollins) is currently in reprint as The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest (Kansas). This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

His other titles include The River was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow (Oklahoma, 2014); Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory (Louisiana State University, 2013); George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel (Kansas, 2012), which was the recipient of the 2013 Harwell Award; Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema (Rowman and Littlefield, 2006); The War Hits Home: The Civil War in Southeastern Virginia, (Virginia, 2001) and an updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., Civil War Sites in Virginia (Virginia, 2011).

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Commonwealth of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He has also received the Charles L. Dufour Award from the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans in 2013 and just named the recipient of the Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit in 2020 by the Houston Civil War Round Table.

## "The River Was Dyed with Blood: N.B. Forrest and Fort Pillow"

As the campaigning season for 1864 got underway, Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest prepared to assert his presence in the western theater of the Civil War once more. He had established a powerful reputation as "the Wizard of the Saddle" through the earlier course of the conflict and demonstrated his prowess in raids, pursuits, traditional cavalry roles and departmental operations. Forrest enjoyed a solid record of besting his opponents and making the most of limited resources to accomplish impressive ends.

Now, General Forrest looked to ground that had already proven to be lucrative for his command in western Tennessee and Kentucky. Raids through the region had secured him supplies and recruits, thrown his opponents into nervous turmoil and challenged the impressive string of successes Federal arms had secured at Vicksburg and Port Hudson in the previous summer. Forrest was determined to make his mark once more.

This foray into Kentucky led to a mixed reception at Paducah, where a stout defense from the garrison of Fort Anderson and gunboats thwarted Confederate intentions. Forrest turned back into Western Tennessee, identified a new target, and proceeded toward it. Fort Pillow lay on the Mississippi River, approximately fifty miles north of Memphis. A Union garrison of between 557 and 580 black and white troops held the post under Major Lionel Booth. Booth anticipated no immediate threat but had the gunboat New Era nearby to augment his firepower, should one arise. What followed became one of the most controversial episodes of the Civil War. Brian Wills' presentations will explain in detail what happened at Fort Pillow and the aftermath.

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**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.

### Reservations

**RESERVATIONS: Please Note!!!** If you email Bryan Winslow and **do not** receive a confirmation, you need to call Doug Krawczyk (502-425-0325) 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, September 9**, 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 **eight** 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 LOUISVILLE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL BOURBON & BBQ FUND RAISER**  
**4 SEPTEMBER 2021**



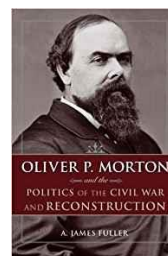
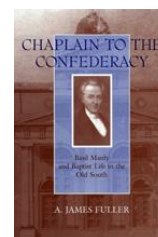
**"DEVILS & SPIRITS OF KENTUCKIANA"**  
**3:00 PM TO 7:00 PM**

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**HISTORICAL PRESENTATION**

**"CHASING A CIVIL WAR SERIAL KILLER"**

*A. James Fuller, PhD*



*University of Indianapolis*

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**HOOSIER WHISKEY TASTING PRESENTATION**

*Michael Veach*



*Bourbon Hall of Fame Historian*

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**BBQ RIBS & PULLED PORK SLOW COOKED BY CHEFS**

***ART BOERNER & MARC OCA***

**PLUS!**

**FIXIN'S, SAUCES, SIDES & DESSERTS**

**\$65.00 Member/\$75.00 Non-Member *non-refundable***

**COVERS FOOD, HISTORICAL &**

**INDIANA DISTILLED WHISKEY TASTING PRESENTATIONS**



**LIMITED SEATING**

*Reservations Required\*\**

*Phone: (502) 592-6864*

*\*\*payment guarantees seating*

*COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place*

**ON THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER**



**MAIL CHECK TO**

**LCWRT**

**9462 Brownsboro Rd.**

**#142**

**Louisville, KY. 40241**

***No credit cards accepted***

**2200 1/2 UTICA PIKE  
 JEFFERSONVILLE, IND. 47130**

## The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bourbon and BBQ Set for September 4<sup>th</sup>!!!

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Bourbon and BBQ fundraiser is scheduled to be held on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The cost to attend is \$65 for members and \$75 for non-members. The theme of this year's event is "Devils and Spirits of Kentuckiana" which will feature a presentation by Dr. James Fuller on a Civil War serial killer. The whiskey tasting will feature Michael Veach and Indiana whiskeys. It will once again be held at Art Boerner's home on the Ohio river with Art preparing his famous BBQ ribs and Marc Oca will smoke a batch of pulled pork. You can send your check to LCWRT, 9462 Brownsboro Rd. #142, Louisville, KY. 40241. No credit cards and your payment is non-refundable unless the event is cancelled.

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### 2020-2021 Board of Directors

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James Forrester  
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Louisville, KY 40207  
502-644-0081



## Addition to 2020-2021 Patron Members - Bob Heleringer

Due to an editing error, Bob Heleringer's name was omitted from our list of Patron members that were recognized in the summer newsletter. Our apologies to Bob for this omission. Our thanks to Bob and to all the Patron members who help make our Round Table a success!

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### 2021 - 2022 Schedule

Sunday September 12	Brian Steel Wills	"The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan B. Forrest and Fort Pillow"
Sunday October 10	William C. Davis	"Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln: A Comparison and Evaluation"
Saturday November 6	David Dixon	"TBA"
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 April 9	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.



SUMMER 2021 QUIZ:

1. When did Major General George Gordon Meade take command of the Army of the Potomac?  
*He took command on June 28, 1863.*
2. After the Confederate forces were driven back into Vicksburg, how long did the siege last before they surrendered to the Union forces?  
*It lasted 47 days.*
3. What was the most popular newspaper in the United States during the Civil War?  
*The Harper's Weekly, with its war news and illustrations, was the most popular. The New York Tribune had the largest circulation since it was both a daily and weekly paper.*
4. Who was the ex-sutler's clerk who later became a well-known circus owner?  
*James A. Bailey became part-owner of Barnum and Baily's circus.*
5. What date did Richmond, Virginia fall to the Union forces?  
*It fell on April 3, 1865.*

SEPTEMBER 2021 QUIZ:

1. Who did Carl Sandburg call the "most shot-at man" in the Civil War?
2. What Confederate general succeeded General Joseph Johnston when he was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines on May 31, 1862?
3. Robert Todd Lincoln, President Lincoln's oldest son, served on General Grant's staff and was present at Appomattox. What was his rank?
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?
5. Who served as President Lincoln's only Secretary of State?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee

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Attest:

John Davis  
Adjutant

By Order of:

Art Boerner  
President