



Circular Memorandum #483

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November, 2016

Announcing Our 514th Meeting

"The Four Legged Soldiers"

Will be Presented by James I. Robertson

DATE: Sunday, November 20

Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$25.00): 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.

Meet Our Speaker - James I. Robertson Jr.

We are once again honored to have our longtime friend and Life Member of our Round Table, James I. 'Bud' Robertson Jr. visit us. He is without question one of the preeminent Civil War scholars and lecturers of our time. So many times in the past he has enlightened our members with informative and entertaining talks. 'Bud' has written and edited over 20 books and countless articles and reviews during his distinguished career. His latest book is "CIVIL WAR ECHOES--Voices from Virginia 1860 - 1891". His magnificent biography of Stonewall Jackson won eight national awards and served as the basis for the movie 'Gods and Generals'.



James I. Robertson Jr. is a native of Danville, Virginia and a great grandson of a Confederate veteran of the Army of Northern Virginia. He received his B.A. and Litt.D. degrees from Randolph-Macon College and M.A. and PhD degrees from Emory University, where he studied under famous Civil War historian Bell Wiley. He served as Executive Director of the U.S. Civil War Centennial Commission working with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. He has been honored with several major awards including the 1987 Fletcher Pratt Award, the 1988 Jefferson Davis Medal and the Freeman-Nevins Award. Bud continues to speak at seminars and other venues around the country and has finished 'A Rebel War Clerk's Diary: J. B. Jones' that was recently published.

Dr. Robertson recently retired from being the Alumni Distinguished Professor in History at Virginia Tech. Since our founding in 1961, Bud Robertson has been a frequent and favorite speaker and we welcome him back once again for what will be a very special evening.

"The Four Legged Soldiers"

The horse was the basic form of transportation at the time of the Civil War. Some 1.5 million died in that war, not only from wounds but also from, neglect, abuse, disease, and starvation. I will focus on the plight of those poor animals, then move to mascots who gave love to regiments and too often gave themselves in the call of duty.

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Books! Books! Books!

We will have Dr. Robertson's book, "**After the Civil War**" published by the National Geographic Society for sale at the meeting at an incredible **50%** discount. The book normally sells for \$30 but we will have it for you for **\$15**. Remember Christmas is not far away!

James Robertson explores 70 fascinating figures who shaped America during Reconstruction and beyond. Relentless politicians, intrepid fighters, cunning innovators—the times called for bold moves, and this resilient generation would not disappoint. From William Tecumseh Sherman, a fierce leader who would revolutionize modern warfare, to Thomas Nast, whose undefeatable weapon was his stirring cartoons, these are the people who weathered the turmoil to see a nation reborn. Following these extraordinary legends from the battle lines to the White House, from budding metropolises to the wooly west, we re-discover the foundation of this great country.

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The November Meeting is on **Sunday!!**

RESERVATIONS: Call **Doug Krawczyk (502-425-0325)** 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**. Please call or email **no later than Thursday November 17**, 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.

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2016 Fall Field Trip to Richmond Kentucky



On Sunday, October 23, several members of our Round Table met at the historic Rogers House at 9:30 to begin a tour of the Richmond, Kentucky battlefield with Phil Seyfrit, battlefield historian and preservationist, as our guide. The weather was perfect for spending a beautiful fall day outside. Phil took us to the historic ground where the August 29-30, 1862 battle took place and described in his own downhome way what transpired here. His goal was to give us a big picture overview of what happened and not get too into the minute details and he interjected lots of humor and interesting stories about the personalities that were involved. To further our understanding of the battle, Phil had us act out the battle by placing us in formations and moving us around to simulate the positions of the armies and how the battle unfolded. We all learned that flanking movements were the key to the Confederate victory and time after time Kirby Smith's troops were able to maneuver and launch overwhelming flank attacks that eventually sent Union forces fleeing from the field. The battle was the second largest Civil War battle in Kentucky and was one of the most decisive and complete Confederate victories of the war. After touring the battlefield, we made the short journey over to White Hall,

home of abolitionist Cassius Clay for a brief lecture by Phil about White Hall and the very interesting life of Clay. This is definitely a place you should put on your to do list of places to visit in Kentucky. We ended our day by going to Hall's on the River for a time of good food and fellowship at this historic site on the Kentucky River. Our thanks to Phil Seyfrit who gave us a great tour and entertained us all day long. He and other key individuals have done a fantastic job in helping preserve the Battle of Richmond sites and everyone in the Civil War community owes them a debt of gratitude for the work they have done and are continuing to do. Also, I want to point out that the Civil War Trust has also contributed to saving this historic land. The above picture was taken overlooking the historic ravine used by Confederate forces to flank the Union defenders at a decisive point in the battle. Phil is pointing to the ravine that was saved by money from the Civil War Trust.

2017 Spring Field Trip: The Seven Days Battles

We have confirmed next year's field trip, and it is to Richmond, Virginia to tour the Seven Days Battles with Bobby Krick, the former park historian for the Richmond National Battlefield Park. Bobby Krick did this field trip for us back in 1996 and did a superb job. Once again, we were able to obtain the services of the best possible guide for the battlefields we will be visiting. The dates will be **April 19 -23, 2017**. We will have a lot more information about this exciting trip in the coming months.



Richard McMurry
Speaking at the
Bourbon Tasting
Fund Raiser

Fall Bourbon Tasting Fund Raising Event a Big Hit!

Those who attended the Fall Bourbon Tasting event on Sunday, November 6, had a great time. Twenty-four lucky folks got to taste a variety of Civil War themed bourbons, enjoy some tasty food, and hear one of the great Civil War historians of our time deliver an informative and interesting talk. The *star attraction* of this event was a bottle of 1960 circa Rebel Yell. This bottle was given to Lowell Griffin, by the founder of the LCWRT, Frank Rankin in about 1975 and on the label was printed, "Colonel Lowell Griffin". It had never been opened. This vintage Rebel Yell was distilled by the former Stitzel-Weller distillery owned and operated by the Van Winkle family as in "Pappy Van Winkle" fame. It did not disappoint! It had a rich dark straw appearance and a great nose (fragrance or smell) for those who appreciate bourbon tasting talk. Everyone agreed this was the best tasting bourbon of the lot and maybe the best that many had tasted in a long time. Our tasting guide and host, Mike Veach, commented that it tasted better than today's very expensive Pappy Van Winkle. High praise indeed! Attendees also tasted the current Rebel Yell distilled product and though good, nothing like the vintage bottle. Our thanks go to Lowell for donating this bottle and inspiring this event!

We also tasted "Battlefield Bourbon"- Small Batch distilled with "fresh spring water from the battlefield in Franklin", "Johnny Drum" Private Stock - a Willett distilled product from Bardstown, Ky; "Burnside Double Barreled" An Oregon state distilled product; "Rebellion"- a Willett distilled product from Bardstown, Ky; and "Cassius Clay"- 100-proof whiskey ages for around 8 years in charred American oak.

Richard McMurry treated us to a humorous and informative talk on four Confederate generals from the Western theater of the war of whom opinions have changed in the last 50 years or *AC*, 'after Thomas Connelly'. Historians now evaluate Generals Braxton Bragg and John Bell Hood much higher than previously and Leonidas Polk and Joe Johnston lower than before. Richard pointed out that this is primarily because historians now look at all contemporary sources and do not rely solely on the memoirs of the *Generals* who always cast themselves in the most positive light possible.

Thanks to Doug Krawczyk for putting this event together and all those who assisted him!

2016 - 2017 Schedule

Sunday	November 20	Bud Robertson	"The Four Legged Soldiers"
Saturday	December 10	Chris Mackowski	"TBA "
Sunday	January 15	Peter Carmichael	"Following in the Footsteps of a Confederate Deserter: The Story of N. Carolina's John Futch"
Saturday	February 11	Brian Steele Wills	"General George Thomas"
Friday	March 17	William C. Davis	"The Confederate Kardashian--Loreta Velasques, Rebel Media Celebrity and Con Artist"
			Saturday April 8 Lee White
Saturday	May 13	"TBA"	"TBA"
		"The Battle of Resaca"	

OCTOBER 2016 QUIZ:

1. The Battle of Perryville was the final battle of what Civil War campaign?
The Battle of Perryville was the largest and final battle of the 1862 Confederate Heartland Campaign, which started in August 1862 and was designed to bring Kentucky more fully into the Confederacy.
2. Which Union general was relieved of command for his failure to beat the Confederates at Perryville?
Don Carlos Buell was relieved of command on October 24, 1862 and replaced by Major General William Rosecrans.
3. Late in the Battle of Perryville, which Confederate general was caught behind enemy lines and had to bluff his way back to safety?
Because of the confusion caused by the setting sun and smoke on the battlefield, General Leonidas Polk found himself in front of the 22nd Indiana and had to bluff his way back to Confederate lines.
4. When did Abraham Lincoln first run for public office?
Lincoln first ran in 1832, when he lost an election to serve in the Illinois legislature. He was successful two years later, serving four consecutive terms in the Illinois House of Representatives and one term in the United States House of Representatives.
5. When did President Abraham Lincoln issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation?
He issued it on September 22, 1862.

NOVEMBER 2016 QUIZ:

1. John Brown was sentenced to death on what charge and by what authority?
2. What Southern state is believed to not have had any troops fighting for both the North and the South?
3. Who were the six or seven Union officers to become President of the United States?
4. Who were CSA Brig. General Benjamin Hardin Helm's "Orphan Brigade" fighting when Helm was mortally wounded at Chickamauga?
5. What former U.S. President was elected to the Confederate Congress?

Help Spread the Word Through Social Media!

"A group that doesn't grow dies" according to one unnamed sage. So one topic that comes up a lot around our meetings is enlisting new members. We can't always get a full page article with photos in the Courier-Journal. We have to use the Internet to spread out and let people know we are here. Two items of interest: as a quick check on 9/9/16, I looked on Facebook and there were 30,565 people talking about Kentucky in the Civil War and 1,000 talking about Louisville in the Civil War. That's a lot of potential members out there. We currently have 365 followers on Facebook. If you aren't following Joe Reinhart's posts there, please do! When you see something of interest, like it and share it on your own feed. It's the easiest way to let people know your interest and connect with friends and family you may not realize are interested in the Civil War.

Next: Go to the LCWRT Blog, where we have started posting new photos in several series. This is separate content from Facebook or the Adjutant's Call. Charlie Moore is writing about American Civil War Monuments, and these are neat. Plus we have started the series Our Civil War Ancestors, featuring LCWRT members' ancestors who served in the war. Follow us there and you can share these on Facebook, too. And if you have a photo of your Union or Confederate ancestor, let me know - I'd love to feature him, (or her, if she enlisted in disguise). The blog: <http://louisvillecivilwarroundtable.blogspot.com/>

We are also now on Pinterest and Instagram, if you prefer those to Facebook. If so, follow and like!

Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/LouisvilleCWRT/boards/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lcwrt/>

Why all this following and liking? Numbers are important. Pages and posts with responses generate more interest and make the organization appear more energetic and viable. It's all free, it's all easy and it's all quick. And it's a great way to help the Round Table continue to grow and engage new members.

What else can the membership do to help? I need photos, preferably digital, but physical ones can be scanned. Subjects we would like to feature include photos of Civil War battlefields, Civil War monuments, and Our Civil War Ancestors. For this last, I am looking for photos of soldiers, sailors or veterans with at least name, rank and if available, hometown. If you have photos you would be willing for us to use (I would be happy to do a photo credit) just let me know at montyholly@twc.com. Or come see me at a meeting!

Holly Jenkins-Evans

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Welcome New Members!

We wish to extend the warm hand of fellowship to new members:

Stephen Ford
Gene and Mona Morgan
Janet Klein
Otis and Lois Fox
David and Ruth Heideman
Warren Bilkey, Jr.
John E. Eckerle
Larry Elliott

And returning member:

Craig Bunting

Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**David Deatrick
President**