



Circular Memorandum #496

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April 2018

Announcing Our 528th Meeting

"Gordon's Flank Attack: Lost Opportunity in the Wilderness"

Will be Presented by **Greg Mertz**

DATE: Saturday, April 14

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 - Greg Mertz



We welcome back Greg Mertz, who serves as the supervisory historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He has been our guide on several of our field trips to eastern battlefields and has spoken at our meetings before as well. Greg Mertz was born and raised near St. Louis, Missouri. He was active in Boy Scouts, earning the rank of Eagle Scout. His interest in the Civil War began and grew out of annual hiking and camping trips the scout troop made to the Shiloh, Tennessee battlefield every spring. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri and a master's from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania. His 37-year career with the National Park Service began with four years at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site followed by 33 years at Fredericksburg. He has written four feature articles for Blue and Gray Magazine on the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House and has an upcoming book in the Emerging Civil War Series titled *Attack at Daylight and Whip Them: The Battle of Shiloh, April 6-7, 1862*.

Greg was our guide on our Spring Field Trip in 2009 where we toured the Campaign and battle of Chancellorsville.

"Gordon's Flank Attack: Lost Opportunity in the Wilderness"

The final attack during the May 5-6, 1864 Battle of the Wilderness, was not simply a small portion of the first showdown between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. For Confederate General John B. Gordon, of whom the attack is named, the dusk attack was a lost opportunity - and one of several such chances blown by the Confederates that he observed during the course of the war. Gordon felt that the situation in the Wilderness was similar to a missed opportunity he had experienced at Gettysburg, as well as a pair of other prime chances the Confederates had during subsequent battles later in 1864. In addition to observing similarities among the several lost opportunities, Gordon also noticed parallels in the decision-making process for the attacks that failed to accomplish all that Gordon felt the Confederates could have achieved. Some combination of Generals Gordon, Richard S. Ewell and Jubal A. Early were involved in the discussions regarding lost opportunities, and Gordon blamed these superiors for failing to make attacks that did not reach their potential. We will examine how Gordon's Flank Attack in the Wilderness tells us about more than just a sliver of the battle, but illuminates our understanding of the inner workings of a key portion of the Army of Northern Virginia.

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Remember Price Increase at Big Spring

Please remember that the price of the buffet \$28. This is the first price increase we have had in nine years. We are still getting a 26% discount on our meals from Big Spring. Big Spring Country Club has begun a renovation that will last for the next several months. They want us to park in the rear of the building and use those doors to enter the building. The front doors will be closed off during the renovation.

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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 (502-425-0325) 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. If you do not receive a confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Wednesday, April 11**, 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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We Need Your Field Trip Pictures!!

If you have pictures of field trips past that might be useful in our picture quiz, please send those to Bryan Winslow at bryanw@macconstruction.com. They need to have **people** in them not just landscapes.

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2018 Spring Field Trip: Chickamauga and Chattanooga Now a Sell-Out!

If you want to go on the Spring Field Trip to Chickamauga and Chattanooga you will need to put your name on the waiting list. We are now at capacity but if someone should have to cancel, we will fill that vacancy. The dates are **April 18 - 22, 2018**. The waiting list sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting. You can also email John Davis at johnd.davis@twc.com to put your name on the waiting list. The final fee amount of \$65 per person is now due. You can send your payment made out to LCWRT to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road- #142, Louisville, KY., 40241. The total cost of the trip will be \$265 per person excluding your room and some meals. If you are going on the trip you should be receiving emails with important information about the trip.

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Book Sale Fund Raiser to be Held at the April Meeting

The Round Table will be conducting a book sale at the April 14 meeting to raise funds for the Round Table. The family of deceased Life Member Ace Elmore has donated 80 of Ace's Civil War books to the Round Table and the Board of Directors has decided that these will be offered to our membership. A committee made up of six Board of Directors members were appointed to access the collection and to value them. It was decided to offer these books at below market value and they are priced accordingly. The sale will begin at 5:30 at the April 14 meeting and will be on a first come first serve basis. Some of the more valuable books will be sold in silent auction. All the books are hardbacks, some are first editions and many are signed. Most are in good to very good condition. Please be prepared to pay for any books you wish to purchase at the meeting. Checks should be made out to LCWRT. Here is a list of the books and their prices.

Sherman: Fighting Prophet by Lloyd Lewis; \$20
 The Life of Johnny Reb and Billy Yank by Bell Irvin Wiley; Boxed Set \$20
 General A.P. Hill; Lee's Forgotten General by William Woods Hassler; \$35
 Fighting for the Confederacy: E. Porter Alexander edited by Gary Gallagher \$10
 Lee the Last Years by Charles Bracelen Flood; \$10
 General A.P. Hill Story of a Confederate Warrior by James I. Robertson; \$20
 P.G.T. Beauregard by T. Harry Williams; \$20
 Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest by John Wyeth \$25
 Soldiers Blue and Gray by James I. Robertson; \$20
 Chattanooga - A Death Grip on the Confederacy by James L. McDonough; \$20
 Five Tragic Hours: the Battle of Franklin by James L. McDonough; \$20
 Divided We Fought: A Pictorial History of the War edited by David Donald; \$5
 The World of Matthew Brady by Roy Meridith; \$5

Lincoln's Lieutenants by Stephen Sears; \$20
George B. McClellan: the Young Napoleon by Stephen Sears; \$5
Lee of Virginia by Douglas Southall Freeman: \$5
The Lees of Virginia by Paul C. Nagel; \$5
The Long Surrender by Burke Davis; \$5
Jefferson Davis by Clement Eaton: \$20
Historical Times III Encyclopedia of the Civil War edited by Patricia L. Faust; \$5
Battles and Leaders of the Civil War edited by Ned Bradford: \$5
A Diary From Dixie: Mary Boykin Chestnut edited by Ben Williams; \$20
High Tide at Gettysburg by Glenn Tucker; \$5
First Blood: The Story of Fort Sumter by W.A. Swanberg; \$15
The Decisive Battle of Nashville by Stanley Horn; \$50
Shiloh: Bloody April by Wiley Sword; \$35
Faces on the Wall by Woodford B. Hackley; \$10
Richmond Volunteers by Louis Manarin and Lee Wallace: \$20
The Coming Fury by Bruce Catton; \$15
Terrible Swift Sword by Bruce Catton; \$20
Never Call Retreat by Bruce Catton; \$15
Lee's Last Campaign by Clifford Dowdey: \$25
Experiment in Rebellion by Clifford Dowdey: \$25
Lee by Clifford Dowdey: \$10
Perryville: Battle for Kentucky by Kenneth Hafendorfer; \$50
War Talks of Confederate Veterans by George S. Bernard; \$20
Campaign of Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley by William Allan and Jed Hotchkiss: \$10
I Rode With Stonewall by Kyd Douglas; \$10
Stonewall in the Valley by Robert G. Tanner; \$5
Chickamauga by Glenn Tucker: \$15
The Civil War: A Narrative Volume I by Shelby Foote; \$10
House Undivided: The Story of Free Masonry and the Civil War by Allen Roberts; \$20
Jeb Stuart: The Last Cavalier by Burke Davis; \$5
The Final Fortress: Vicksburg 1862 - 1863 by Samuel Carter III: \$10
Turbulent Partnership by William E. Parrish: \$25
The Army of the Potomac by Bruce Catton; \$5
A Stillness at Appomattox by Bruce Catton; \$5
The Civil War Day by Day by E.B. Long; \$15

William Mahone of Virginia by Nelson Morehead Blake; silent auction starting bid \$75
Battles of the Civil War: a Pictorial Presentation with the Complete Kurz and Allison Prints
Oversized; silent auction starting bid \$100
Parker's Virginia Battery by Robert K. Krick; silent auction starting bid \$50
Reminiscences of the Civil War by John B. Gordon; silent auction starting bid \$100
From Manassas to Appomattox by James Longstreet; silent auction starting bid \$300
General George H. Thomas by Donn Platt; silent auction starting bid \$75
Lee's Lieutenants 3 volume set by Douglas Southall Freeman; silent auction bid starting at \$200
R.E. Lee 4 Volume biography by Douglas Southall Freeman; silent auction starting bid \$75
The Stonewall Brigade by James I. Robetson; silent auction starting bid \$30
They Died by Twos and Tens by Kenneth Hafendorfer; silent auction starting bid \$200

The Seventh Annual Bourbon and BBQ June 23

We are pleased to announce that the seventh annual Bourbon and BBQ will be held on June 23rd on the banks of the Ohio River at the lovely home of our President, Art Boerner. Our theme this year is Irish whiskey. Our tasting will be conducted by whiskey expert Chris Zaborowski. Bourbon historian Mike Veach will once again serve as our master of ceremonies. We will once again feature the fabulous BBQ ribs of Art Boerner and the smoked pull pork of Marc Oca along with many side dishes and desserts!



We will taste a bourbon then compare this with various Irish whiskeys. When the Irish arrived in America, they had no idea what bourbon whiskey was so it was a new experience for them. We will learn about the history of Irish whiskey and about the very large Irish whiskey industry and products that are available today.

Chris Zaborowski, is a 30+ year veteran of the beverage alcohol business and currently owner of Westport Whiskey & Wine, in Louisville, KY. He was one of the first recognized instructors by the Society for Wine Educators and more recently certified an Executive Bourbon Steward by the Stave and Thief Society. He has a firm belief that the best way to learn about beverage alcohol is to taste. No matter if it was a wine course or a whiskey class, he always combines a tasting with the presented material.

This event always sells out and you need to get your paid reservation in early. The cost is \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members. After May 12, all tickets are \$60. The only way to reserve your place is to mail your check made out to the LCWRT to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road- #142, Louisville, KY., 40241 or you can pay at the meetings.

2017 - 2018 Schedule

Saturday April 14	Greg Mertz	"Gordon's Flank Attack: Lost Opportunity in the Wilderness"
Saturday May 12	John Quarstein	"Battle of the Ironclads"
Friday September 7	Will Greene	"Jackson's Valley Campaign"
Friday October 12	Jeffrey Wert	"TBA"
Sunday November 18	Bud Robertson	"Robert E. Lee and the Pursuit of Peace"

March 2018 QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Who was Thornsbury Bailey Brown?

He is generally considered to be the first Union soldier killed by a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. This took place on May 22, 1861 at Fetterman, Virginia (now West Virginia).

2. Who is known as the "Thunderbolt of the Confederacy"?

This is the nickname generally given to Brigadier General John Hunt Morgan.

3. Who commanded Union General William T. Sherman's XIV Corps in his March to the Sea?

Brigadier General Jefferson Columbus Davis commanded the Corps.

4. Who is considered to be the last Civil War veteran to die as a result of wounds received during the war?

That would be Brigadier General Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who died on February 24, 1914, fifty years after being severely wounded at the Second Battle of Petersburg, Virginia in June 1864.

5. What famous Civil War poem was later set to the tune of *O'Tannenbaum*?

In 1861 James Ryder Randall wrote the nine-stanza poem MARYLAND, MY MARYLAND! Baltimore resident Jennie Cary, sister of Hetty Cary, turned the poem into a song.

APRIL 2018 QUIZ:

1. How many African-Americans received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War?
2. Who was the first African-American to receive the Medal of Honor?
3. Because of his service at the Battle of Gettysburg, Major General George Meade recommended immediate promotion of this officer to brigadier general. The promotion was dated July 3, 1863. Who was the officer to receive this promotion?
4. At the beginning of the Civil War, what distinguished Company K, 5th Virginia Regiment in the Stonewall Brigade?
5. Which five major Confederate cities became military targets of the Union armies?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Art Boerner
President**