



Circular Memorandum #484

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December, 2016

Announcing Our 515th Meeting

"The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"

Will be Presented by Chris Mackowski

DATE: Saturday, December 10

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 - Chris Mackowski

Chris Mackowski, Ph.D., is the editor-in-chief of *Emerging Civil War* and managing editor of [the Emerging Civil War Series](#). He is a professor of journalism and mass communication at St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY, and historian-in-residence at [Stevenson Ridge](#), a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield in central Virginia. He has also worked as a historian for the National Park Service at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park, where he gives tours at four major Civil War battlefields (Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania), as well as at the building where Stonewall Jackson died. Chris has authored or co-authored a dozen books on the Civil War, and his articles have appeared in all the major Civil War magazines. Among the books Chris has authored or co-authored are "The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson: The Mortal Wounding of the Confederacy's Greatest Icon-and the Birth of Its Greatest Legend", "Fight Like the Devil: The First Day at Gettysburg July 1, 1863", and "That Furious Struggle: Chancellorsville and the High Tide of the Confederacy, May 1-5, 1863".



He was a 2014 finalist for the Army Historical Foundations' Distinguished Book Award for "Chancellorsville's Forgotten Front: The Battles of Second Fredericksburg and Salem Church". Chris has had six of his plays produced and he serves on the national advisory board for the [Civil War Chaplains Museum](#) in Lynchburg, Virginia.

"The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"

Jackson's loss has been called one of the major turning points of the war. Follow his last days, from his famous flank attack at Chancellorsville and his accidental wounding by his own men, to the amputation of his arm and his final journey over the river to rest under the shade of the trees.

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Books! Books! Books!

Chris Mackowski will have several of the books he has authored available for members to purchase at the meeting.

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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 Wednesday December 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 **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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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**. The signup sheet is now available at the meetings. You can also email John Davis at johnd.davis@twc.com to make your reservation. You can send your nonrefundable \$200 deposit to Harriette Weatherbee at 1028 Sarah Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40219.

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We Need a 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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The Seven Days Battles Study Guides

There are several good books you can read to prepare for our spring field trip to Virginia to tour the Seven Days Battles and Peninsula Campaign. Maybe the best is Stephen Sears' "To the Gates of Richmond". This is a well written comprehensive study of the Peninsula Campaign that has stood the test of time and is considered a classic. Of more recent vintage is Brian Burton's "Extraordinary Circumstances: The Seven Days Battles". "A welcome addition to scholarship that should be the standard work on its subject for some time to come." According to the *Journal of Military History*. He has also written a companion battlefield guide for the campaign. Another classic book on the subject is Clifford Dowdey's "The Seven Days: the Emergence of Lee". As the title indicates, the book focuses on the generalship of Robert E. Lee as he takes over command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Another briefer excellent guide is the Time Life Civil War series book on the "Seven Days Battles". This volume contains excellent maps and illustrations along with a very good narrative of the battles and campaign. A great book of essays is Gary Gallagher's "The Richmond Campaign of 1862: The Peninsula and the Seven Days." Several historians contribute to this book of very informative articles.

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Robert E. Lee's Gettysburg Headquarters Saved!

With a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, the small stone house, also known as the Mary Thompson House was opened, and the adjacent lands that served as a combat command center during one of the most decisive battles in American history. This was all made possible by The Civil War Trust and its members who financed the purchase and the extensive effort to restore the property and building to its 1863 appearance.

For more than a year, the Trust worked diligently to rehabilitate the home and return the landscape to its Civil War appearance. This involved removing 10 modern structures and several post-war additions to the headquarters building. They relied on period photographs and post-war surveys to replicate historic contours and gardens. They even installed a dog house visible in a photo taken during the Civil War. Our thanks to everyone who made this possible!

Robert E. Lee's Christmas Letter to His Wife Dec. 25, 1862

We get a glimpse of Robert E. Lee's character in this Christmas greeting to his wife written from Fredericksburg on Christmas Day 1862. In it, we see how the war has placed him in direct conflict with this Christmas spirit he wishes to celebrate. Reprinted from *The Wartime Papers of R. E. Lee* edited by Clifford Dowdey.

Camp, Fredericksburg

December 25, 1862

"I will commence this holy day dearest Mary by writing to you. My heart is filled with gratitude to Almighty God for His unspeakable mercies with which He has blessed us in this day, for those He has granted us from the beginning of life, and particularly for those He has vouchsafed us during the past year. What should have become of us without His crowning help and protection? Oh, if our people would only recognize it and cease from vain self-boasting and adulation, how strong would be my belief in final success and happiness to our country! For in Him alone I know is our trust and safety. Cut off from you and my children, my greatest pleasure is to write to you and them. Yet I have no

time to indulge in it. You must tell them so, and say I constantly think of them and love them fervently with all my heart. But what a cruel thing is war; to separate and destroy families and friends, and mar the purest joys and happiness God has granted us in this world; to fill our hearts with hatred instead of love for our neighbours, and to devastate the fair face of this beautiful world! I pray that, on this day when only peace and good-will are preached to mankind, better thoughts may fill the hearts of our enemies and turn them to peace. Our army was never in such good health and condition since I have been attached to it. I believe they share with me my disappointment that the enemy did not renew the combat on the 13th. I was holding back all day and husbanding our strength and ammunition for the great struggle, for which I thought I was preparing. Had I divined that was to have been his only effort, he would have had more of it. But I am content. We might have gained more but we would have lost more, and perhaps our relative condition would not have been improved. My heart bleeds at the death of every one of our gallant men. Give much love to every one. Kiss Chass and Agnes for me, and believe me with true affection

Yours
R. E. Lee"

The Civil War Trust Preserves 70 Acres at Perryville Battlefield!

The Civil War Trust today declared victory on three properties totaling 70 acres associated with the historic 1862 Perryville battlefield. This latest preservation success story was the result of a [national fundraising campaign](#) conducted by the Trust earlier this year. With the addition of these 70 acres, the Trust has helped save 1,027 acres at Perryville, the site of Kentucky's largest and bloodiest Civil War battle. "The Complete preservation of a battlefield is the Civil War Trust's ultimate goal, the finest example of our mission at work," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "This victory at Perryville brings us within spitting distance of finishing our work there. Thanks to the generous contributions of our members, future generations of Americans will have the opportunity to visit this site and reflect on the sacrifices made by our forebearers."



Morning at Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site.

This latest effort at Perryville preserves an area known as the "Western High Water Mark of the Confederacy," the farthest point reached by the principal Southern army in the Western Theater. The fighting on this property was intense, and the remains of many Union soldiers still rest on this section of the battlefield.

The tracts were purchased for \$736,000 using grants from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program matched by donations from thousands of dedicated Trust members. Some of the acreage was also donated by a private

landowner. The Trust's ultimate goal is to transfer the properties to Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site to enhance interpretation of the battle's closing, climactic stages. The properties also feature a 430-foot long stone fence behind which Union Col. John Starkweather's brigade finally stopped the advance of Gen. Benjamin Cheatham's Confederate division, just 600 yards short of a Federal supply train.

In the summer of 1862, Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg launched an invasion of the key border state of Kentucky, hoping to divert Union attention from the Southern strongholds at Vicksburg and Chattanooga. The [Battle of Perryville](#) was a Confederate tactical victory, though the heavy fighting and bloodshed forced Bragg to retreat to Tennessee. During the battle, the Confederates held an early advantage that they were able to exploit due to lack of communication among various elements of the Union force. Eventually reinforced, the Federal troops held their ground and pushed some of their attackers back into the town of Perryville itself. Confronted by a larger force and running low on supplies, Bragg withdrew toward the Cumberland Gap. His army would never return to Kentucky.

The Civil War Trust is the largest and most effective nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of America's hallowed battlegrounds. Although primarily focused on the protection of Civil War battlefields, through its Campaign 1776 initiative, the Trust also seeks to save the battlefields connected to the Revolutionary War and War of 1812. To date, the Trust has preserved close to 43,000 acres of battlefield land in 23 states, including nearly 2,400 acres in Kentucky.

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2016 - 2017 Schedule

Saturday	December 10	Chris Mackowski	"The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"
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	"The Battle of Resaca"
Saturday	May 13	"TBA"	"TBA"
Friday	September 8	"Richard McMurry"	"TBA"

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NOVEMBER 2016 QUIZ:

1. John Brown was sentenced to death on what charge and by what authority?

The Commonwealth of Virginia found him guilty of inciting insurrection and hung him. The United States government did not charge him with treason.

2. What Southern state is believed to not have had any troops fighting for both the North and the South?

Every Southern state except South Carolina had troops fighting on both sides.

3. Who were the six or seven Union officers to become President of the United States?

The six officers were Ulysses S. Grant, Chester A. Arthur, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley. Andrew Johnson was appointed brigadier general of volunteers and served as military governor during the war.

4. Who were CSA Brig. General Benjamin Hardin Helm's "Orphan Brigade" fighting when Helm was mortally wounded at Chickamauga?

They were fighting the 15th Kentucky Federal Regiment.

5. What former United States President was elected to the Confederate Congress?

He was John Tyler of Virginia, who died in 1862.

DECEMBER 2016 QUIZ:

1. Who were the two generals killed at the Battle of South Mountain?

2. What battle was called the Battle the Saved Washington and why?

3. Who was President Abraham Lincoln's first vice-president?

4. What was Ulysses S. Grant's original (birth) name?

5. What Confederate general held the post of superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy for five days?

Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**David Deatrick
President**