

Circular Memorandum #512

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December 2019

Announcing Our 547th Meeting

**"The Court Martial of Fitz-John Porter"
Will be Presented by Matthew Borowick**

DATE: Saturday, December 7

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

Matthew Borowick has had a lifelong interest in the American Civil War, dating back to his days as a *first grader* when he took his copy of "The Golden Book of the Civil War" to school daily. In 1992 he joined the Robert E. Lee Civil War Round Table of Central New Jersey, serving as its newsletter editor, advisory board member and webmaster. Later, he helped establish the Civil War Library and Research Center and was its first Executive Director.



Today, Matt is a regular columnist for the well-regarded Civil War News, serving as the author of "Round Table Review", which describes best practices of Civil War round tables from throughout the country. In 2010, he authored and published The Civil War Round Table Handbook - The Indispensable Guide to Running Yours Right, which is available on Kindle at Amazon.com.

He serves as a volunteer at Manassas National Battlefield Park.

Matt earned a B.A. in Economics and an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University and is employed by Seton Hall as its Interim Vice President for Advancement. He and his wife Kathy, who has been to more Civil War battlefields than she cares to admit, live in Monmouth Junction, NJ with their four children

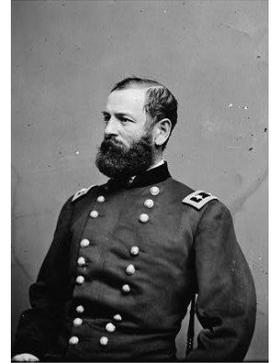
The Court Martial of Fitz John Porter

"Scapegoat": when we hear the word we think of a quarterback who couldn't complete a crucial pass to win the Super Bowl, a cleanup hitter who fans with two outs and the bases loaded in the seventh game of the World Series, or a seven foot center who misses a slam dunk and loses the NBA Championship.

As in sports, the Civil War had its share of heroes and its share of men to whom blame for defeat or disaster was attached. A Union defeat at Manassas in the summer of 1862 led to criticism and a court-martial for one of the rising stars of the Army of the Potomac's high command.

After Robert E. Lee drove John Pope's army back to Washington, questions were raised about who was responsible for the defeat. Fingers quickly pointed toward Major General Fitz John Porter, who did not perform as Pope had expected him to because, as Porter's enemies claimed, Porter wanted to see Pope fail. Porter spent the next 24 years of his life trying to clear his name.

This unique and energetic presentation on a rarely-discussed but incredibly fascinating topic focuses on the events surrounding the Union defeat at Second Manassas and how rivalries in the Northern armies led to the downfall of one of the North's ablest generals.



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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@maconstruction.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, December 4**, 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.

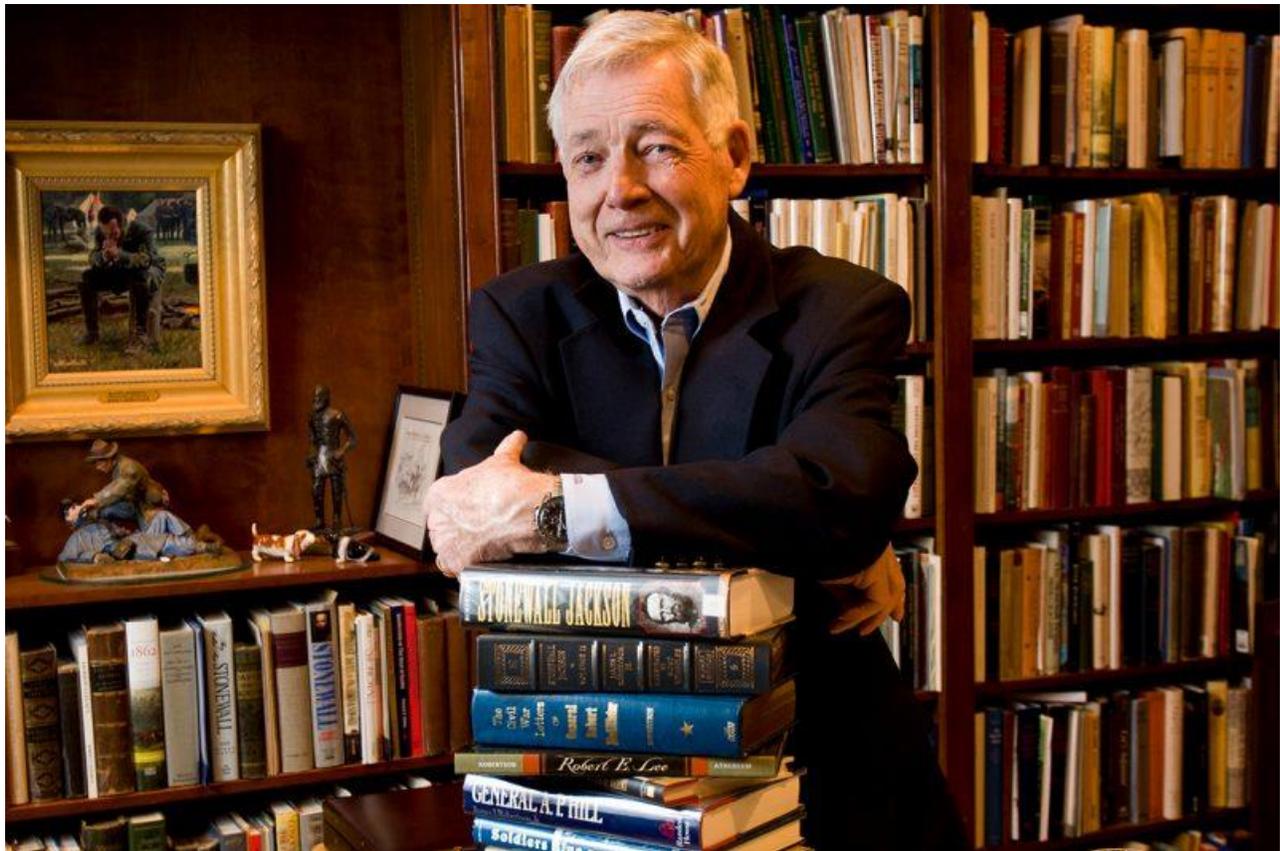
Reminder for Table Reservations: We can reserve tables for parties of **eight** only, and we need you to provide us with the names of all the people in your party when you make the reservation. This will enable us to manage our meeting space in a more efficient manner. Thank you.

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Dr. Richard Aud, Past-President, Passes Away

Dr. Richard E. Aud passed away on November 4. He was president of the Round Table in 1987-1988. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.



In Memoriam James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr.

James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr. lost his battle with cancer on November 2 and was laid to rest on November 16 in Westview Cemetery, Blacksburg, Virginia. His passing brought to a close a remarkable life and career that influenced thousands of students and tens of thousands of those who have an interest in the Civil War and American history. Bud Robertson grew up poor in Danville, Virginia dreaming of becoming a railroad engineer. But fate intervened and he was encouraged to go to Randolph-Macon College and earned his bachelor's degree in history followed by his master's and doctorate which he earned under the tutelage of famed historian Bell Wiley at Emory University. He would spend 44 years teaching at Virginia Tech beginning in 1967 where he taught over 25,000 students in his popular course on the Civil War! He authored and edited 40 books on the Civil War and his biography on Stonewall Jackson will forever be the definitive work on Jackson. In 1962 during the 100th anniversary of the Civil War, President Kennedy called on the then 32-year-old Robertson to be the Executive Director of the Centennial Commission which he admirably led through some tumultuous times bringing together 34 state committees to work to commemorate the war. When Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963, Jackeline Kennedy asked Bud to help plan Kennedy's funeral as she wanted it to be as much like Lincoln's as possible. Bud's accomplishments are too many to list here but here are a few of them. He was an ACC college football referee for 13 years and was later elected to the Virginia Tech Athletic Hall of Fame because of his many contribution to the Tech athletic program. He played drums in a swing band and worked in a mortuary to provide money for his wife and children while he was working on his PhD at Emory. He was the lead historical consultant on the movie "Gods and Generals". But we of the Louisville Civil War Round Table will remember Bud as a true friend and as a dynamic and spell binding speaker. He had spoken at our Round Table over 40 times beginning in the 1960's and always looked forward

to coming to Kentucky. He loved to tell about the great times he had with our founder, Frank Rankin and the infamous cruise on the Bell of Louisville that ended with all the cars parked on Shawnee golf course being mired in mud. He spoke at our 40th anniversary and our 50th anniversary and over the years became the most popular speaker we have ever had. Bud will be greatly missed by our Round Table and by all the Civil War community. William C. "Jack" Davis said, "For fully six decades Bud Robertson was a dominant figure in his field, and a great encouragement to all who would study our turbulent past during the middle of the 19th century. Moreover, amid a conversation that can still become bitter and confrontational, his was a voice for reason, patience, and understanding. In the offing, he has become virtually 'Mr. Virginia,' a spokesperson for the commonwealth past, present, and future. His voice is now sorely missed — and irreplaceable."

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2020 Spring Field Trip: 1865 Carolinas Campaign

Signups Are Underway!

Next year's field trip will be to North Carolina where we will study the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. This trip is one we have never done before. The dates for the trip are April 1-5, 2020 and our guide will be Wade Sokolosky. Wade is a retired Colonel and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is a leading expert on the 1865 Carolinas Campaign and has led many tours of these historic sites. We will be headquartered in Smithfield, N.C. which is about 30 miles south of Raleigh. From our headquarters in Smithfield we will visit all the major battlefield and historic sites of the 1865 campaign including the battlefields of Wise's Forks, Monroe's Crossroads, Averagesboro, and Bentonville. We will also visit several other historic sites and museums in the area including a visit to the C.S.S. Neuse at the Ironclad State Historic Site. There the remains of the Neuse are preserved and there is a full-scale replica of the Neuse. Our Guide, Wade Sokolosky, in addition to leading battlefield tours, has lectured widely on the Carolinas Campaign at historic organizations and roundtables and has co-authored with Mike Smith "No such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign". He is the author of "Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses in the 1865 Carolinas Campaign". Wade's latest book, also co-authored with Mike Smith, "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865". We are very fortunate to have Wade as our guide and we are looking forward to another great field trip. Mark your calendars for April 1-5, 2020. **The signup sheet will be at the December meeting. You can also email John Davis with your reservation at johnd.davis@twc.com. We will begin taking deposits in January.**

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2019 - 2020 Schedule

Saturday December 7	Matthew Borowick	"The Court Martial of Fitz-John Porter"
Saturday January 18	Kent Masterson Brown	"The Civil War: Kentucky's Mercurial Path"
Saturday February 15	Chris Kolakowski	"Civil War to World War: The MacArthurs And the Buckners"
Saturday March 14	Keith Bohannon	"James Longstreet and John Bell Hood"
Saturday April 18	Michael Parrish	"The Importance of Texas in the Civil War"
Saturday May 9	William C. Davis	"TBA"

Book Sale to be Featured at the December Meeting

We will be having a book sale at the December meeting. All proceeds will go into the Round Table's general fund to be used for speaker expenses, preservation, and other expenses of our organization. We want to express our thanks to Tiffany Schofield for donating books from her deceased husband Life Member Wolfe's library. There will be over 100 books for sale. These are mostly hardback books and they are in excellent condition. There are also some paperbacks. Many are first editions and are signed by the authors. These books will be priced to sell at bargain prices under market value.

Here are some of the books that will be available for sale:

All of these are priced at \$10!

Gettysburg Heroes	Embrace an Angry Wind	Lincoln Lessons
Lincoln's Lieutenants	Into the Hands of Providence	The Guns of Cedar Creek
Reminiscences of the Civil War	Soldiers Blue and Gray	Lee of Virginia
Conquering the Valley	Not War But Murder: Cold Harbor	Confederate Handguns
To the Gates of Richmond	Campaigning with Grant - Porter	A Rebel War Clerk's Diary 2 vol.
The Confederate Secret Service	Lincoln: The Presidential Archives	Bloody Roads South
General A.P. Hill	Rebel Raider: John Hunt Morgan	Mountains Touched by Fire
Confederate Women	Lincoln of Kentucky	Grant and Lee - Frassanito
George B. McClellan	Reelecting Lincoln	Battle Cry of Freedom
Retreat From Gettysburg	Life of N.B. Forrest	1861 - Adam Goodheart
Sherman Fighting Prophet	Gettysburg Battlefield History	Jeb Stuart Last Cavalier
R.E. Lee - Robertson	Confederates in the Attic	Cavalier in Buckskin: Geo Custer
Gettysburg Day Three	R.E. Lee - Emory Thomas	Gettysburg - Stephen Sears
Blood on the Moon: The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln		

All of these are priced at \$5!

Sherman's March	History of VMI	The Civil War Day by Day
R.E. Lee - Roy Blout	The Story of Fort Sumter	Lee - Clifford Dowdey
Gettysburg Cemetery and Lincoln	Lee Considered - Nolan	Lincoln of the Bluegrass
Lincoln the War President	Battlefield Atlas	Reflections on Lee - Roland
History of Stone Mountain	The Peninsula - Webb	Lincoln at Gettysburg
Virginia at War - Davis & Robertson	Rebels From West Point	Battle Cry of Freedom
U.S. Army Guide to Gettysburg	Antietam - McPherson	The Lee Girls
Gettysburg: Journey in Time	Lincoln's Other White House	From Blue to Gray - Wilcox
The Kimberlins Go to War	Historical Times Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Civil War	

Also

Lee's Lieutenants - \$25 R.E. Lee - Freeman 4 vols. - \$25
 Box set of Lee's Lieutenants 1st Edition - \$50
 Reminiscences of the Civil War by John Gordon 1st Edition - \$25

These are only part of the books that will be for sale at bargain prices. There are many more some of which are going to be priced at \$1!

THE CASTLEMAN STATUE

A local organization, the Friends of Louisville Public Art, filed a suit earlier this year to block the Mayor's effort to remove the statue of Gen. John B. Castleman. The suit is still ongoing and there is still time to make your voices heard. If you support keeping the statue in place - call, write or e-mail the Mayor and express your opposition to the removal effort!

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NOVEMBER 2019 QUIZ:

1. What was the Anaconda Plan?
As proposed by General Winfield Scott, the plan was for the Union to blockade the Southern ports and for an advance down and capture of the Mississippi River in order to cut the South in two.
2. What was Confederate General Leonidas Polk's middle name?
He had no middle name. He is sometimes listed as Leonidas K. Polk, but the "K" is a mistake. It might have been taken from a post-war listing of him as "Polk, Leon. (k)", signifying "killed in action".
3. For a time after his swearing in as President, why did Andrew Johnson not have use of the Presidential office?
Mrs. Lincoln refused to yield possession of the White House, where the office was located, and Johnson refused to rush her out. She finally left on May 22, 1865.
4. What is said to be the most popular spare-time occupation of Civil War soldiers?
Soldiers spent a lot of time writing letters.
5. During the siege of Vicksburg, why did the shelling of the city cease at 8:00 a.m., Noon, and 8:00 p.m.?
According to William Everhart's book on Vicksburg, those were the Union artillerymen's meal times.

DECEMBER 2019 QUIZ:

1. What was the inscription on Mary Lincoln's wedding ring and what happened to it?
2. Who was the Civil War's only official Army photographer?
3. Who was "Petroleum V. Nasby"?
4. Who were Shannon's Scouts?
5. What Union general bragged that his headquarters would be "in the saddle"?

The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee.

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**Marc Oca
President**