



Circular Memorandum #486

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February, 2017

Announcing Our 517th Meeting

"General George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel"

Will be Presented by Brian Steel Wills

DATE: Saturday, February 11

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 - Brian Steel Wills

We are pleased to welcome back to our Round Table Brian Steel Wills. He is the director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, after a long tenure at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.



He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War, including a new volume - *The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow*.

His other titles include: *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* Reprinted as: *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*. This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

He also authored, *The War in Southeastern Virginia*, released in October, 2001, and *No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise*, (2004), both by the University Press of Virginia. *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* appeared in 2006. An updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (Virginia, 2011) arrived just in time for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, and in 2012 and 2013, Brian authored *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel* and *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory*.

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the state of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He was named Kenneth Asbury Professor of History and won both the Teaching award and the Research and Publication award from UVA-Wise.

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"General George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel"

Although often counted among the Union's top five generals, George Henry Thomas has still not received his due. A Virginian who sided with the North in the Civil War, he was a more complicated commander than traditional views have allowed. Brian Wills presentation will provides a new and more complete look at the life of a man known to history as "The Rock of Chickamauga," to his troops as "Old Pap," and to General William T. Sherman as a soldier who was "as true as steel."

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Books! Books! Books!

We will have some of Brian Steel Wills books available at the meeting for sale at a significant discount from their retail price.

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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, February 8**, 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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The Sixth Annual Bourbon and BBQ Returns June 24th

The Sixth Annual Bourbon and BBQ will return to the lovely home of Art Boerner on the banks of the Ohio River on June 24 (date changed from June 10). The theme will be Tennessee Whiskey and War! Civil War historian and story teller Tom Cartwright will be our featured presenter. Tom Cartwright is headquartered in Franklin, Tennessee and is a noted historian of the Battle of Franklin and has been a major player in the preservation of the battlefield. He is also a master story teller and humorist and will no doubt entertain us in his own unique way. On the tasting side of the equation we are going to feature George Dickel from Cascade Hollow/Tullahoma, Tennessee. As one of Dickel's marketing tagline states "If you only know Jack you don't know Dickel" or has also been said, "If you don't know George you don't know Jack".



There Are Still Openings!

2017 Spring Field Trip: The Seven Days Battles April 19-23

We only have a few openings left for our Spring Field Trip to Richmond, Virginia to tour the campaign and battles of the Seven Days Battles. To guarantee your reservation, you need to send in your \$200 non-refundable deposit. If you sign up for the trip and do not pay your deposit you can lose your spot if we reach our limit of paid reservations. 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 non-refundable \$200 deposit to Harriette Weatherbee at 1028 Sarah Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40219.

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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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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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Snapshot of Glendale, 5th Day of the Seven Days

This is the fifth of the Seven Days' Battles. On June 30, Huger's, Longstreet's, and A.P. Hill's divisions converged on the retreating Union army in the vicinity of Glendale or Frayser's Farm. Longstreet's and Hill's attacks penetrated the Union defense near Willis Church, routing McCall's division. McCall was captured. Union counterattacks by Hooker's and Kearny's divisions sealed the break and saved their line of retreat along the Willis Church Road. Huger's advance was stopped on the Charles City Road. "Stonewall" Jackson's divisions were delayed by Franklin at White Oak Swamp. Confederate Maj. Gen. T.H. Holmes made a feeble attempt to turn the Union left flank at Turkey Bridge but was driven back by Federal gunboats in James River. Union generals Meade and Sumner and Confederate generals Anderson, Pender, and Featherston were wounded. This was Lee's best chance to cut off the Union army from the James River. That night, McClellan established a strong position on Malvern Hill.

2016 - 2017 Schedule

Saturday	February 11	Brian Steele Wills	"General George Henry 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 7	Richard McMurry	"TBA"

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Civil War Trust Leads Effort to Preserve Battlefield Land in 2016

(Washington, D.C.) - The Civil War Trust, America's premier battlefield preservation organization, has announced the conclusion of another year of historic land conservation. Through the generosity of individual donors, coupled with strategic partnerships with government officials and nonprofit groups across the country, the Trust protected 2,373 acres of battlefield land in 11 states during 2016. **The Trust had over 2,000 additional acres under contract at year end.**

"I am confident that 2016 will be remembered as the year that some of America's most critical unpreserved battlegrounds were finally saved," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "History was written on our nation's battlefield lands, and setting aside these hallowed grounds for the education and enjoyment of future generations will be a lasting legacy of the Trust."

Working closely in cooperation with willing landowners and preservation partners, the Trust completed 44 transactions at 32 battlefield sites: Rocky Face Ridge, Ga.; Mill Springs and Perryville, Ky.; Antietam, South Mountain and Williamsport, Md.; Corinth and Port Gibson, Miss.; Bentonville and Averasboro, N.C.; Honey Springs, Okla.; Brandywine and Gettysburg, Pa.; Charleston, Hanging Rock and Waxhaws, S.C.; Fort Donelson, Franklin and Stones River, Tenn.; Appomattox Courthouse, Brandy Station, Cedar Mountain, Chancellorsville, Cold Harbor, Fredericksburg, Gaines' Mill, Kernstown, Ream's Station, Second Manassas, Trevilian Station and Williamsburg, Va.; and Shepherdstown, W.V.

The Trust celebrated several landmark successes in 2016, including the conclusion of a \$5.5 million national campaign to preserve, restore and interpret the four-acre [headquarters site](#) of Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Gettysburg. In Kentucky, the protection of [70 acres at Perryville](#) nearly completes preservation work at that battlefield. And the purchase of [355 acres at the Chancellorsville and Wilderness battlefields](#) in Virginia physically connects the stories of these 1863 and 1864 battles for the first time.

In December, federal legislation passed to [expand the boundary](#) of Petersburg National Battlefield by more than 7,000 acres. The Trust has saved more than 2,000 acres associated with the Siege of Petersburg - at places like Five Forks, White Oak Road and the Petersburg Breakthrough - which eventually will be transferred to the National Park Service.

"We are grateful to the lawmakers and partner organizations who recognized the critical importance of preserving this historic Virginia landscape," said Lighthizer. "These battlefields are living monuments - not just to the 70,000 men in blue and gray whose blood hallowed this ground - but to all of America's veterans."

The Trust's [Campaign 1776](#) project, the first-ever national initiative to preserve and interpret the battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812, had a successful year as well. In July, the Trust launched a campaign to save [1,037 acres](#) at six sites of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, where many historians believe the war was won. And in December - after a two-year advocacy campaign - the Trust reached an agreement with the Institute for Advanced Study to [preserve 15 acres](#) of historic land at the Princeton battlefield. This land was the scene of George Washington's famous counterattack during the January 3, 1777 Battle of Princeton. "The preservation of the Princeton Battlefield is an achievement of national importance," said Jack Warren, executive director of the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati.

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JANUARY 2017 QUIZ:

1. What U.S. Army rank did Robert E. Lee hold at the time of John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry?
At that time he was a Lieutenant Colonel.
2. What state was the first to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment?
It was Illinois.
3. Whose nickname was Fuss and Feathers?
That was the nickname given to U.S. General Winfield Scott.
4. How many sons did Mary and Abraham Lincoln have?
They had four sons.
5. The Hornet's Nest, Bloody Pond, Peach Orchard, and Sunken Road are associated with what battle?
It was the Battle of Shiloh.

FEBRUARY 2017 QUIZ:

1. What was the relationship between Private Frank Thompson of the Michigan 2nd Infantry and Sarah Emma Edmonds from Nova Scotia, Canada?
2. Who was the United States ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War?
3. Who was the only recorded civilian casualty at the Battle of Gettysburg?
4. What Civil War nurse established the American Red Cross?
5. Which of General Robert E. Lee's sons was an artilleryman?

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**David Deatrick
President**