

Circular Memorandum #485

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January, 2017

Announcing Our 516th Meeting

**"Following in the Footsteps of a Confederate Deserter:
The Story of North Carolina's John Futch"**

Will be Presented by Peter S. Carmichael

DATE: Sunday, January 15

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 - Peter S. Carmichael

At the January meeting we honor the memory of our founder, Frank Rankin, with the 21st annual Frank Rankin Lecture. We are honored to have as our guest lecturer Peter Carmichael, whom some of you will remember from his past visits with us. He is an outstanding Civil War historian and a great speaker.



Peter S. Carmichael is the Fluhrer Professor of History and the Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College. After completing his doctorate at Penn State University under Dr. Gary W. Gallagher, Professor Carmichael went on to teach at Western Carolina University, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and West Virginia University. He is the author and editor of four books, including *The Last Generation: Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion*, which was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2005. He has also published a number of articles for both scholarly and popular journals, and he speaks frequently to general and scholarly audiences. Every June Professor Carmichael directs the Civil War Institute's Sumer conference, which draws more than 300 attendees from across the country.

More recently Professor Carmichael has appeared on the PBS Robert E. Lee documentary for The American Experience series and his lectures have been covered by C-Span. He is currently finishing a book entitled *The War for the Common Soldier.*"

"Following in the Footsteps of a Confederate Deserter"

On August 20, 1863, just a day before Jefferson Davis called for the Confederacy to renew itself through public fasting and prayer, thirteen veteran soldiers from the 3rd North Carolina decided that God had other intentions. That evening, in the blackness of night, they picked up their rifles, slung on their cartridge belts, and escaped into the woods. From that point on, there was no turning back on a trek of some three hundred perilous miles that would eventually take them to their North Carolina homes. Earlier that day, Lee ordered his corps commanders to organize armed parties to hunt down runaways while calling for the president to back immediate enforcement of the death penalty against deserters. While the Tar Heels could not have possibly known that Lee was cracking down on the army as if it were a wild beast, the impact of the general's orders would be felt with surprising swiftness.

"I am all most sick all the time and half crazy" looks at the life of John Futch who was a member of the party that deserted from the 3rd North Carolina. Through the story of Futch we look at different facets of desertion in Lee's army after Gettysburg that include the use of violence in Confederate ranks and the role of fake news in suppressing dissent among Confederate soldiers and civilians. Our conversation will be based on the actual letters of Futch, which we will read and discuss together.

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Books! Books! Books!

We will have some of Peter Carmichael's books available at the meeting for sale at a significant discount from their retail price.

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January Meeting is on SUNDAY January 15!!

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, January 12**, 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.

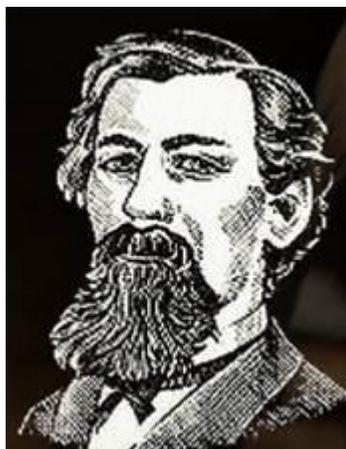
Reminder for Table Reservations: We can reserve tables for parties of **eight** only, and we need you to provide us with the names of all the people in your party when you make the reservation. This will enable us to manage our meeting space in a more efficient manner. Thank you.

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The Sixth Annual Bourbon and BBQ Returns June 10th

The Sixth Annual Bourbon and BBQ will return to the lovely home of Art Boerner on the banks of the Ohio River on Saturday, 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".



2017 Spring Field Trip: The Seven Days Battles April 19-23 The Non-Refundable \$200 Deposit is Now Due!

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 Gaines' Mill, 3rd Day of the Seven Days

In the early hours of June 27, 1862, the third of the Seven Days' battles, Fitz John Porter's Union corps abandoned its position at Beaver Dam Creek and established a new defensive line behind Boatswain's Swamp, just north of the Chickahominy River. Anxious to renew his assaults from the day before, Confederate General Robert E. Lee, sent the bulk of his force forward with the intention of driving them across the river. The Federals beat back successive waves of disjointed attacks, inflicting some of the heaviest casualties the war had yet seen. By dusk, however, Lee's Confederates were more organized. With daylight fading, the reinforced Southerners assaulted Porter's anemic defensive line and sent the Northerners fleeing toward the river. Only darkness prevented Porter's corps from complete disaster. During the night, the Federals limped across the Chickahominy and burned the bridges behind them.

Frank Rankin, Our Founder

Without a doubt, the Round Table owes its success to one great individual and leader, Frank G. Rankin, the person that the Round Table honors at each January meeting with the Frank Rankin Memorial Lecture series now in its 17th year. Many other individuals have worked hard and contributed much to this organization, but all who knew him and worked with him agree that Frank Rankin was a great leader and the driving force that inspired others until he passed away January 20, 1994. He was a person who "knew everyone" from famous scholars to the governors,



politicians, and business leaders of Kentucky whom he could call on to attend and to speak to the Round Table. He was born August 13, 1906 in Louisville and grew up hearing first hand Civil War veterans tell their stories of the war. He knew Basil Duke well and met and shook hands with John S. Mosby and walked the battlefields of Virginia with Douglas Southall Freeman. He was a collector of Civil War books and memorabilia long before it became popular and amassed a rare and voluminous library of books and artifacts including a Confederate battle flag of an Arkansas regiment that fought at Perryville. Frank Rankin is remembered for his ability to lead and inspire others to work and give of themselves to further the mission of the Round Table in providing opportunities for people to learn about the Civil War. Mike Mills wrote a touching tribute to Frank in which he said the members of the Round Table "... all live under the shadow of Frank Rankin. Frank was not perfect or a saint. But he was a man who loved this land, this Kentucky soil and each of us."

After graduation from DuPont Manual Training High School in 1922, Rankin entered the grain business with S. Zorn & Co., becoming sales manager in 1938. In 1942, he joined Gold Proof Grain Elevator Co., the second largest grain-marketing cooperative in the United States. He rose to the position of general manager.

Rankin was also a leader in many charitable and civic organizations. In 1958, Rankin was elected president of the Kentucky Derby Festival Committee. He was a director of Lincoln Memorial University, in Harrogate, Tennessee, and the Bank of Louisville and was a member of the Harry R. Kendall Masonic Lodge 750, Scottish Rite, Kosair Shrine Temple and the Royal Order of Jesters.

Frank Rankin died at his home, in Louisville, Kentucky, on January 1994. He was 87.

2016 - 2017 Schedule

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| 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 Kardashians--Loreta Velasques, Rebel Media Celebrity and Con Artist" |
| Saturday | April 8 | Lee White | "The Battle of Resaca" |
| Saturday | May 13 | "TBA" | "TBA"***** |

DECEMBER 2016 QUIZ:

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

They were Union General Jesse Reno and Confederate General Samuel Garland, Jr.

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

On July 9, 1864 Union forces under Major General Lew Wallace and Confederate forces under Lt. General Jubal Early fought the Battle of Monocacy. Although Wallace's troops were defeated, they were able to buy enough time for Union troops from Petersburg to arrive and defend Washington.

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

He was Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.

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

Grant's parents named him Hiram Ulysses Grant.

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

It was General P. G. T. Beauregard.

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?

2. What state was the first to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment?

3. Whose nickname was Fuss and Feathers?

4. How many sons did Mary and Abraham Lincoln have?

5. The Hornet's Nest, Bloody Pond, Peach Orchard, and Sunken Road are associated with what battle?

Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

By Order of:

**David Deatrick
President**