



Circular Memorandum #487

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March, 2017

Announcing Our 518th Meeting

**"The Confederate Kardashians-Loreta Velasquez,  
Rebel Media Celebrity and Con Artist"**

**Will be Presented by William C. Davis**

**DATE: Friday, March 17**

**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 - William C. Davis**

We welcome back longtime friend of our Round Table, William C. "Jack" Davis. He is one of the great Civil War historians of our time and as anyone who has heard him can testify, he is a great speaker! He is a native of Independence, Missouri and received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Sonoma State University in northern California. He then spent twenty years in editorial management in the magazine and book publishing industry before leaving in 1990 to spend the next decade working as a writer and consultant here and abroad.



He is the author or editor of more than fifty books in the fields of Civil War and Southern history, as well as numerous documentary screenplays. He was the on-camera senior consultant for 52 episodes of the Arts & Entertainment Network/History Channel series "Civil War Journal," as well as a number of other productions on commercial and Public Television, as well as for the BBC, and has acted as historical consultant for several television and film productions, including "The Blue and the Gray," "George Washington," and "The Perfect Tribute."

In September 2013 he retired after thirteen years as Professor of History and Executive Director of the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. He is a three-time winner of the Jefferson Davis Award given for book-length works in Confederate History. His biography of John C. Breckinridge was nominated for a Pulitzer prize. One of his most recent books is *Crucible of Command: US Grant and R E Lee, The War They Fought and the Peace they Forged* and we will have this at the March meeting.

His book *The Battle of New Market* is the basis of the motion picture *Field of Lost Shoes*. He served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission and serves on several other consultative bodies, as well as being an occasional consultant to the Virginia State Police on cold case homicides. Please join us Friday, March 17 when Jack Davis visits us again. You do not want to miss this opportunity to hear this great historian!

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### "The Confederate Kardashian: Loreta Velasquez, Media Celebrity, Con Artist, and the Making of a Confederate Myth."

We live in an era of self-created "media celebrities," but what we may not know is that this is not a new phenomenon. Only the media have changed, but the process is unchanged since the Civil War. One of the very first such people was a Confederate woman whose real name we may never know, but who cleverly manipulated the newspaper press to make herself the Confederacy's first and perhaps only true media celebrity. Moreover, this woman--known to history as Loreta Velasquez though she used several names--wrote a book *The Woman in Battle* that continues to have influence today, even though it is almost entirely fictional in its account of her posing as a man, Lieutenant Harry Buford, to serve the Confederacy in combat, as a spy, blockade runner, and more. The story of how a woman who was a teenaged New Orleans prostitute in 1860 turned herself into the equivalent of a 20th century movie star is fascinating, and that is only the beginning of a story that would take her well into the next century pursuing one scam after another."

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### Books! Books! Books!

We will have some of William C. Davis' books available at the meeting for sale at a significant discount from their retail price. His "Crucible of Command" will be available in hardback for the amazing price of \$10!

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### MARCH MEETING IS ON FRIDAY!!!!

**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](mailto:bryanw@macconstruction.com). Please call or email **no later than Wednesday, March 15**, 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.

### The Sixth Annual Bourbon and BBQ Will be 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. 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". 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 15, all tickets are \$60. The only way to reserve your place is to mail your check made out to the LCWRT to **Doug Kremer, 11024 Indian Legends Drive - Apt-203, Louisville, Ky.**



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## **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. The dates are **April 19 -23, 2017**. To sign up you need to send \$380 per person to Harriette Weatherbee at 1028 Sarah Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40219. \$200 of this amount is non-refundable should you cancel for any reason. If you have any questions, you can email John Davis at [johnd.davis@twc.com](mailto:johnd.davis@twc.com). If you have not paid the remaining balance of the \$380 total, please mail your check made out to LCWRT for \$180 to Harriette Weatherbee at 1028 Sarah Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40219. There will be a pre-field trip meeting at the home of John Davis on Sunday, April 2 to go over final details.

The \$380 field trip fee includes transportation to and from Louisville on a Free Enterprise System tour bus (these buses are big and nice!), the 3-day tour, box lunches each day of the tour, Friday night beer and pizza at the hotel, and Saturday night dinner at the Halfway House. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Express near the Richmond airport where we get a special rate of \$109 per night. If you have signed up for the trip, you need to make your room reservations as soon as possible. The number is 804-222-1499. We will leave the parking lot located at One Sodrel Drive Jeffersonville, IN 47130, of the Free Enterprise System promptly at 6:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 19. You will need to arrive no later than 5:45 to allow time to load luggage. You can park near the bus in the Free Enterprise lot which is gated and secure. We will make stops for breakfast and lunch and arrive at our hotel at approximately 5:00. Thursday morning we will board the bus and travel down the Peninsula to explore the first phase of McClellan's campaign to take Richmond. Our tour guide for the first day will be local historian J. Michael Moore who will take us to several significant sites including Fortress Monroe, Yorktown, Williamsburg and other places where important action occurred in this first phase of the Peninsula campaign.

Friday, day two will bring us to the first battles of the Seven Day Battles June 25 - July 1. Richmond Battlefield historian Bob Krick will be our guide for these battles. We will trace the action beginning in Mechanicsville and follow Lee's attack at Beaver Dam Creek and the pursuit to the battlefield at GaineOh s' Mills. This was the largest of all the battles of the Peninsula Campaign. We will follow the retreating Federal army across the Chickahominy River as McClellan decides to "change his base." We will make a brief stop at Savage's Station before retiring to our hotel for Pizza and drinks.

Day three will take us to White Oak Swamp where we see the site where the exhausted Stonewall Jackson fell asleep with a biscuit in his mouth as the Federals made good their escape to Glendale. Next we will visit Glendale where much new land has been added by the Civil War Trust and we will tour this site where a very large battle was fought on June 31. Finally, we will end our tour at Malvern Hill where the Federal army finally brought Lee's Confederates to a halt with a bloody repulse that D.H. Hill called "not war, but murder." We finish the night at the Halfway House where we will have a great dinner and our famous "picture quiz." We will arrive back home late Sunday afternoon, tired but glad that we were on another great field trip!

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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](mailto:bryanw@macconstruction.com). They need to have **people** in them not just landscapes!

### Work Day for Bourbon and BBQ - Free Ribs!!

This is not a misprint! If you come to Art Boerner's house (2200 1/2 Utica Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130) on Saturday, April 1 at 9:00 and help clear driftwood, you will be treated to a lunch of BBQ ribs prepared by the master of BBQ himself, Art Boerner! Water, soft drinks, and beer are provided. This is hard work but well worth the reward. Wear work clothes and bring your work gloves and rakes. If you can bring a wheelbarrow, that would help too. Depending on how many volunteers we get, this job will take between 3 and 4 hours. We need to know if you plan on coming. Email John Davis at [johnd.davis@twc.com](mailto:johnd.davis@twc.com) or call him at 502-759-1152 if you want to help out. If we get rained out, there will be a makeup day.

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### Study Guides for the Seven Days Battles

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 contributed to this book of very informative articles.

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### 2016 - 2017 Schedule

Friday	March 17	William C. Davis	"The Confederate Kardashians--Loreta Velasquez, 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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**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?

*They were one and the same person.*

- 2. Who was the United States ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War?

*The United States ambassador was Charles Francis Adams, who did much to block British diplomatic recognition of the Confederacy. He was a former United States congressman and the son of President John Quincy Adams.*

- 3. Who was the only recorded civilian casualty at the Battle of Gettysburg?

*Jennie Wade was the only recorded civilian casualty.*

- 4. What Civil War nurse established the American Red Cross?

*Clara Barton established the American Red Cross.*

- 5. Which of General Robert E. Lee's sons was an artilleryman?

*It was his third and youngest son Rob---Robert E. Lee, Jr.*

**MARCH 2017 QUIZ:**

- 1. The Petersen House became famous as the house where President Lincoln died. In the 1850's another prominent Civil War general rented rooms in the boarding house. Who was he?

- 2. Which two states have the greatest number of Union Civil War monuments?

- 3. What battle was named after two different kinds of trees?

- 4. Who was the last surviving lieutenant general of the Confederacy?

- 5. What prominent Northern editor was among the first to sign the \$100,000 bail bond for Jefferson Davis?

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**Attest:**  
**John Davis**  
**Adjutant**

**By Order of:**  
**David Deatrick**  
**President**