



Circular Memorandum #544

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March 2023

Announcing Our 571st Meeting

"A Season of Slaughter: The Battle at Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle"

Will be Presented by Chris Mackowski

DATE: Saturday, March 11

Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$32.00): 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. His latest book is 'The Battle Never Fought: The Mine Run Campaign'. He frequently partners on projects with the American Battlefield Trust, the nation's largest battlefield preservation organization. Chris serves as vice president on the board of directors for the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, he serves on the advisory board of

the Civil War Roundtable Congress and the Brunswick (NC) Civil War Roundtable—the largest in the country—and is a supporter of the Antietam Institute.

"A Season of Slaughter: The Battle at Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle"

For twenty-two straight hours, in torrential downpours, up to their knees in mud and blood, Federals and Confederates slugged it out in the most intense sustained hand-to-hand combat of the war. A panoply of horror, one soldier called it. A Saturnalia of blood. Hell's Half-Acre. The slaughter pen of Spotsylvania. Most remember it simply as the Bloody Angle.

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Books! Books! Books!

Our speaker, Chris Mackowski, will have copies of his books available at the meeting for sale.

Please Note the Price of the Buffet is now \$32!

Reservations

RESERVATIONS: Please Note!!! If you email Bryan Winslow and **do not** receive a confirmation, you need to call Doug Krawczyk (502-592-6864) 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 (502-592-6864) 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. If you do not receive a confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Wednesday, March 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**, 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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Our Field Trip in 2023, The Atlanta Campaign \$200 Non-refundable Deposit is Due!

We are now taking signups for the April 19-23 field trip to Atlanta. **The signup sheet will be at the March meeting.** We are also collecting the **\$200 non-refundable deposits**. You can sign-up by emailing John Davis at johnd.davis@twc.com and mailing your \$200 non-refundable deposit check made out to LCWRT directly to Louisville Civil War Round Table, 9462 Brownsboro Road - #142, Louisville, Ky., 40241. The \$200 non-refundable deposit is now due which will guarantee your reservation for the trip. We anticipate the cost of this year's trip will be between \$375 and \$400. We are going to cover the last half of the 1864 Atlanta Campaign in our next field trip. Our guide will be Robert Jenkins who has been studying, researching, and giving tours of the Atlanta campaign for several years. Robert was our speaker in February when he spoke on "The Atlanta Campaign and the Battle of Peach Tree Creek". We are going to concentrate on the last half of the campaign from Kennesaw and Pickett's Mill through the battles in Atlanta. The tour will also include New Hope Church, Dallas, Pine Mountain, Gilgal Church, Kolb Farm, Peach Tree Creek, and Ezra Church. We will also visit the Atlanta History Center and view the newly restored Battle of Atlanta Cyclorama. And yes, there is plenty to see on these battlefields. The Atlanta campaign was arguably the most important and decisive event in the Civil War. Filled with high drama, interesting personalities and hard fought battles, its outcome would decide the Presidential election of 1864 and the fate of the Confederacy. Please mark your calendars for April 19-23, 2023 and join us for what will be a great field trip. We will be staying at the Fairfield Inn in Marietta. If you would like to get a head start on reading, there is no better one volume history than Albert Castel's wonderful, "Decision in the West: the Atlanta Campaign". For a briefer but no less brilliant outline, I recommend Richard McMurry's "Atlanta Campaign of 1864".

The \$200 Non-refundable Deposit Explained

To guarantee your reservation for the April 2020 Field Trip, you will need to make a \$200 non-refundable deposit. We expect this trip to be a sellout. Please understand that once you make this payment it is **non-refundable** for any reason after the February 11th meeting. If you need to cancel after February 11, only the amount of the trip fee above \$200 will be refunded. This policy is necessary because we must make several payments in February and March for the bus, insurance, and other items in advance of the trip. We also need a guaranteed count on the number of people going so we can keep the price of the trip as low as possible.

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YES! We Do Have a Website!!

In case you did not know, we do have a very good website! Information about our meetings and the upcoming schedule are there as well as our newsletters and information about our field trips. If you lose your newsletter or delete it from your email, you can find the current newsletter there on the website. The address of the website is louisvillecwrt.yolasite.com. In addition to the newsletters and schedule of speakers, there are links to many interesting Civil War sites. We are excited to report that Brian Taylor is now our webmaster. Congratulations to Brian for accepting this important assignment for the Round Table. Brian is also going to serve on the Board of Directors.

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Joseph R. Reinhart



Joe Reinhart is a native of Louisville, graduated from St. Xavier High School; Bellarmine College; and, earned his MBA degree from Indiana University in 1964. He practiced as a Certified Public Accountant for almost 30 years and achieved partnership with the national accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand (now PricewaterhouseCoopers). He has been an avid reader of American Military History since his teenage years, and in later life immersed himself in genealogical research.

Joe is a former member of the Board of Directors, successfully led the organization's effort to obtain 501(c) 3 Tax Exempt Status for our Round Table and prepared its annual Tax Exempt Organization's Returns for a number of years. He also created and maintained our website for over 20 years.

He learned of the existence of our Round Table while researching his family history at the Filson Club (now the Filson Historical Society), in 1994. His search revealed that his great-great-grandfather, Nicolas Reinhart, a native of France, and both of Nicolas's wife's brothers who were natives of Germany) had fought for the Union. Nicolas Reinhart, and his brother-in-law, John Hittinger, served in the 28th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment, while Frank Hittinger, served in the 6th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Noting a lack of books about the histories of Union regiments from Louisville, Joe decided to research and publish a comprehensive regimental history with (i) a solid Louisville connection, (ii) an outstanding battle record and (iii) a sizable number of German immigrants. He chose the 6th Kentucky Infantry, which included four companies of German-born men principally from Louisville. Joe had studied German at Bellarmine College and U of L, and was fortunate enough to locate a surviving diary and many letters written in German, as well as English.

Joe joined our Round Table at his first opportunity and has both greatly enjoyed and benefitted from this association. He has learned much at the monthly meetings, met many leading Civil War scholars, consulted with them and professional battlefield guides with respect to his work, added many friends and acquaintances, and enjoyed many field trips. He has especially enjoyed speaking about his books to the Louisville Round Table, as well as a dozen others in five different states.

Joe has been researching and writing about the Civil War for the last 20 years. He is the author of *A HISTORY OF THE 6TH KENTUCKY VOLUNTEER INFANTRY U.S.: THE BOYS WHO FEARED NO*

NOISE, published in 2000. He subsequently translated and edited an extensive diary and a letter collection of two Germans fighting in the 6th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. Between 2002 and 2015 he translated and edited diaries and letters in the form of regimental histories of three well-known German regiments: the 32nd Indiana Infantry; the 9th Ohio Infantry, and the 82nd Illinois Infantry. The last four books were published by university presses and can be found in major university, city, and historical libraries.

Joe's extensive efforts were recognized in 2014 when he was awarded the first ever "The Immigrants' Civil War Award." by Patrick Young. Mr. Young blogs daily for *Long Island Wins*. He is the Downstate Advocacy Director of the New York Immigration Coalition and Special Professor of Immigration Law at Hofstra School of Law. He served as the Director of Legal Services and Program at Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN) for three decades before retiring in 2019. Pat is also a student of immigration history and the author of *The Immigrants' Civil War*.

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Welcome New Members!

We wish to welcome the following new members into our fellowship.

Sharon Owen, Bob Buehl, Patrick and Abigail Wilbourn, Henry Saldo, and Gary and Ann McGruder

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The Emerging Civil War

Our March speaker, Chris Mackowski, is the managing editor of the Emerging Civil War Series which serves as a public history-oriented platform for sharing original scholarship related to the American Civil War.

The primary audience is the general public, so scholarship is defined broadly: historical research, memory studies, travelogues, personal narratives, essays, book reviews, and photography. Journalistic-style coverage of current Civil War-related events and the Civil War in pop culture are also included. Furthermore, ECW encourages respectful discussion about that material. ECW does not publish fiction or poetry.

Our Mission

ECW seeks to encourage a diversity of perspectives in the scholarship it presents. We do that, in part, by identifying and spotlighting the next generation of Civil War historians and the fresh ideas they bring to the historical conversation.

As a collective, the individuals who comprise ECW are encouraged to share their own unique interests and approaches. The combined collection of material—and the respectful discussions that surround it—forward ECW's overall effort to promote a general awareness of the Civil War as America's defining event. This is a link to their website emergingcivilwar.com. You can subscribe and receive daily emails that will contain a variety of articles by historians that will be of interest to you.

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2022 - 2023 Schedule

Saturday March 11	Chris Mackowski	"A Season of Slaughter: The Battle at Spotsylvania's Bloody Angle"
Saturday April 8	Kenneth Noe	"Weather, Climate, and the Civil War"
Saturday May 13	Don Frazier	"The Civil War in the Texas Hill Country"

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FEBRUARY 2023 QUIZ:

1. What prison had the highest death rate of all Civil War prisons?
Union prison Camp Douglas in Chicago, Illinois had the highest.
2. Why, by 1864, was the Army of the James frequently called the Army of the Games?
According to Bud Robertson it was because of its overwhelming gambling.
3. What building stands on the site in Washington where the commandant of Andersonville was hanged?
The U.S. Supreme Court Building was built on the site.
4. Which Confederate general was present at Ulysses S. Grant's wedding in 1848?
That was Grant's friend James Longstreet, who was also a cousin of Grant's wife Julia.
5. During the war, how many commanders did the Stonewall Brigade have?
It had seven (7) commanders.

MARCH 2023 QUIZ:

1. Just weeks after President Lincoln's assassination, Mrs. Mary Lincoln received a personal letter of condolences from a world leader. Who was this letter from?
2. How old was General Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865?
3. What was the Confederacy's first invasion of the North?
4. On what date did Richmond, Virginia fall to Union troops?
5. The 8th Wisconsin Regiment had a unique mascot. What was it?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)**Attest:****John Davis
Adjutant****By Order of:****Doug Krawczyk
President**