



Circular Memorandum #489

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May, 2017

Announcing Our 520th Meeting

"The Fight for the East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg"

Will be Presented by Eric Wittenberg

DATE: Saturday, May 13

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 - Eric Wittenberg

Eric J. Wittenberg was born in the Philadelphia suburbs. He was raised in southeastern Pennsylvania, and made his first trip to the Gettysburg battlefield as a third-grader. By the end of that trip, he was fully hooked on the Civil War. Eric is an alumnus of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and also has two degrees from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in public and international affairs from Pitt's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs as well his Juris Doctor from the University Of Pittsburgh School Of Law. Eric is a full-time practicing attorney in private practice.



Eric J. Wittenberg is an award-winning Civil War historian. His specialty is cavalry operations, with a particular emphasis on the Army of the Potomac's Cavalry Corps. He is the author of seventeen published books. His first book, *Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions*, was named the third winner of the Robert E. Lee Civil War Roundtable of Central New Jersey's Bachelder-Coddington Literary Award as the best new work interpreting the Battle of Gettysburg of 1998. Other works of his have been chosen as main selections by the History and Military Book Clubs, and his work uniformly receives good reviews. He is also the author of more than two dozen published articles on Civil War cavalry operations. His articles have appeared in *Gettysburg Magazine*, *North & South*, *Blue & Gray*, *Hallowed Ground*, *America's Civil War*, and *Civil War Times Illustrated*.

Eric regularly travels the country to lecture on the war, and he is frequently asked to lead Civil War battlefield tours. Battlefield preservation work is very important to him. He sits on the boards of advisors of the Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation and the Friends of the Alligator, and has regularly worked with the Civil War

Preservation Trust in helping to save battlefield land. He is an original member of, as well as past president and program chairman of, the Central Ohio Civil War Roundtable. He is the vice president of the Buffington Island Battlefield Preservation Foundation and serves as one of 18 members of the Governor of Ohio's Advisory Commission on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. He maintains a popular and well-regarded blog, [Rantings of a Civil War Historian](#), and is the owner and moderator of the popular Civil War Discussion Group Online. A native Philadelphian, he is a long-suffering fan of the Phillies, Eagles, and Flyers, and is also an avid supporter of the Columbus Blue Jackets. Eric, his wife Susan, and their two golden retrievers live in Columbus, Ohio.

The Fight for the East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg

In his talk, "Protecting the Flank: The Fight for East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg," award-winning Civil War historian Eric J. Wittenberg will address the critical events that occurred in the East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. However, you cannot understand these events without also understanding the fight for Brinkerhoff's Ridge on the afternoon of July 2 that set the stage for the fight on East Cavalry Field. Come hear Mr. Wittenberg discuss these important events.

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Books! Books! Books!

Our speaker, Eric Wittenberg, will be bring some of his books to the meeting to sell to members. Here is a partial list of some of his 17 books: *The Battle of Brandy Station: North America's Largest Cavalry Battle; The Battle of Monroe's Crossroads and the Civil War's Final Campaign; Gettysburg's Forgotten Cavalry Actions: Farnsworth's Charge, South Cavalry Field, and the Battle of Fairfield; Glory Enough For All: Sheridan's Second Raid and the Battle of Trevilian Station; Protecting the Flank at Gettysburg: The Battles for Brinkerhoff's Ridge and East Cavalry Field; The Union Cavalry Comes of Age: Hartwood Church to Brandy Station; With Sheridan in the Final Campaign Against Lee; Plenty of Blame to Go Around: Jeb Stuart's Controversial Ride to Gettysburg.*

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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, May 10**, 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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Tickets are Going Fast for Bourbon and BBQ 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.**



Civil War Trust Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Civil War Trust has accomplished many great things in the last 30 years, and they have something especially significant to celebrate this month. In April 1987, Donald Pfanz, then a supervisory historian at Petersburg National Battlefield, made a research trip to Fredericksburg. His meeting there with Robert K. Krick would turn out to be providential, for it resulted in a very important letter.

Pfanz's letter to historian Brian Pohanka on April 22, 1987, filled two typewritten, single-spaced pages. It was the spark that ignited the modern battlefield preservation movement and, eventually, led to the creation of the Civil War Trust. Pfanz envisioned active groups of local preservationists working alongside one national organization to protect hallowed ground.

It was the Pfanz letter — with the combined concern of Civil War preservationists such as Ed Wenzel and Clark "Bud" Hall — that got the ball rolling. In July 1987, a pivotal meeting took place in Fredericksburg, overlooking the historic Rappahannock River. Out of that meeting came the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites — the first national organization dedicated to saving and protecting Civil War battlefields. It took a year and a half before this group of volunteers had its first save: 8.5 acres of donated land at Port Republic, Virginia.

It is because of members like you that this humble grassroots group has endured and thrived. We are constantly astounded by the passion and generosity given these [past 30 years](#). Since 1987, the Trust has saved more than 45,000 acres of American battlefield land, and that number continues to grow. These past three decades have produced remarkable results, and I share the pride of these accomplishments with supporters like you.

From Jim Lighthizer of the Civil War Trust

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2016 - 2017 Schedule

Saturday	May 13	Eric Wittenberg	"The Fight for the East Calvary Field at Gettysburg"
Friday	September 7	Richard McMurry	"TBA"
Friday	October 13	"TBA"	"TBA"
Sunday	November 19	Bud Robertson	"TBA"
Saturday	December 9	James Klotter	"TBA"

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After Action Report for Field Trip 2017

Some 40 members and guests of our Round Table rallied on Wednesday, April 19 in Richmond, Va. to retrace the steps of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia in the Peninsula Campaign of 1862. Our goal was to cover the entire campaign starting with the Federal landing at Fort Monroe in April of 1862 and following the steps of the Armies until the final guns of Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862.

Some things we learned on field trip 2017:

- (1) Bobby Krick, our guide for the Friday and Saturday tours of the Seven Days Battles, is one of the best guides we have ever had! He has complete command of the battlefields and does a great job on interpreting and explaining what occurred and why. He did a fantastic job for us!
- (2) There is a lot more to see on the Lower Peninsula than many of us thought. Fort Monroe we knew about but recent efforts of local preservationists including our guide for the first day, J. Michael Moore and the Civil War Trust, have done a great job in preserving new important tracts of land at Lee's Mill and in Williamsburg.
- (3) George B. McClellan was a dufuss. He believed from day one that the Confederates vastly outnumbered him and was afraid to use his army which in fact outnumbered the Rebels. He credited Prince John McGruder with having over 100,000 men when in reality he barely had 15,000. The Army of the Potomac could easily have crushed him but Prince John put on a good show! McClellan's constant whining and calling for reinforcements became old very fast. How Lincoln put up with this clown is beyond belief. He did save his magnificent army or actually his generals saved it. McClellan spent the crucial Battle of Glendale dining aboard the *Galena* in the James River while his army fought for its survival.
- (4) Robert E. Lee got mad a bunch of times during the Seven Days of June 25-July 1 1862. He was mad because his generals for the most part could not carry out his plans to catch the Army of the Potomac as it "changed its base" to use McClellan's phase, as it retreated to the James River. Lee was actually partly to blame for this for he tried to bring five different columns on different roads together at the same time using bad maps and generals he barely knew and with confusing and poorly written orders.
- (5) Stonewall Jackson had his worst day of the war on June 30, 1862. With orders to cross White Oak Swamp and attack the Union rear guard, the usually aggressive Jackson did nothing. Most attribute his lethargy to fatigue. When presented with options to flank and attack his adversary, Jackson took a nap. He later fell asleep eating his dinner. In the meantime, the Federals were able to send vital reinforcements to Glendale that helped stave off the attacks of Longstreet and A.P. Hill.
- (6) The Battle of Malvern Hill could be considered a comedy if it were not in fact, a tragic mistake. The Confederate efforts read like a script from a Abbott and Costello routine. Nothing went right or according to plan. After the Confederate artillery was pounded into oblivion, the planned attack was supposedly canceled. But some of Armistead's men became involved in a hot skirmish near the end of the day and started yelling and everyone thought it was the signal to attack. Of course the attacks were piecemeal and resulted in a virtual slaughter as 5,000 boys in grey lay dead and wounded at the base of Malvern Hill.
- (7) Richmond weather forecasters are not very good. They were constantly scaring us with dire forecasts of massive amounts of rain especially on Saturday and they were wrong. We had a few brief sprinkles on Saturday otherwise we were dry the whole trip.
- (8) There are lots of people to thank for making a trip like this a success. First, we need to thank our Field Trip committee chairman, President David Deatruck, for putting the trip together and doing much of the planning. Treasurer Paul Fridell did a great job and spent countless hours working out the arrangement for our hotel, our lunches, and our final excellent dinner at the Halfway House in addition to collecting all the

fees and keeping track of all our expenses. Harriette Weatherbee also contributed her wise counsel at all of our planning meetings. We also want to thank our very excellent bus driver, Scott Whitehouse, who did a great job for us. Bryan and Cindy Winslow did their usual excellent job with the picture quiz with an assist from Art Boerner and we upgraded to color this year! Finally, everyone who went on the trip deserves to be praised because you were a great group of campaigners who helped make this trip very enjoyable for all!

April 2017 QUIZ:

1. Which state sent more men to the Civil War than any other state?

According to historian Chris Kolakowski, that would be New York State.

2. In reading Civil War diaries, it was discovered that Union soldiers mentioned one thing more often than any other person or thing. What was it?

The word "coffee" was mentioned more often than words like "war", "bullet", "slavery", "mother", or even "Lincoln".

3. Who was the female Confederate spy who received a commission from General Jeb Stuart?

She was Antonia Ford from Fairfax, Virginia. Stuart made her an honorary aide-de-camp in 1861. Union authorities arrested her in 1863 and imprisoned her for several months in Old Capital Prison. In 1864 she married Union Major Joseph Willard, one of the officers who had arrested her. They settled in Washington, D.C., managed the Willard Hotel, and had three children. She died in 1871.

4. What church denomination did Confederate General Robert E. Lee belong to?

He was an Episcopalian.

5. Where was the Confederate Navy Yard located after the fall of Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia?

Charlotte, North Carolina, although 200 miles from the ocean, was chosen because of its railroad connections to coastal cities. It became Gosport Yard.

MAY 2017 QUIZ:

- 1. When did the last Confederate army surrender?
 - 2. What two prominent Southern statesmen died on July 26, 1863?
 - 3. Who was the only woman reporter at Abraham Lincoln's nomination in 1860?
 - 4. What Union general had the honor of receiving the surrender of the infantry of Lee's army?
 - 5. What rank did President Lincoln's son, Robert, hold in the army in 1865?
- Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia?

(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)

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Attest:

**John Davis
Adjutant**

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By Order of:

**David Deatrick
President**