



Circular Memorandum #511

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November 2019

Announcing Our 546th Meeting

"The Lost Gettysburg Address"
Will be Presented by David Dixon

DATE: Sunday, November 17

Location: Big Spring Country Club

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M.

DINNER (\$28.00): 7:00 P.M.

PROGRAM: 8:00 P.M.

Meet our Speaker



David Dixon earned his M.A. in history from the University of Massachusetts in 2003. He has published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most focus on Union sympathizers in the Civil War South.

David spoke at the 2016 Sacred Trust Talks in Gettysburg and has delivered nearly 100 talks to audiences across the country. He appeared on Civil War Talk Radio and other podcasts. He hosts B-List History, a website that features obscure characters and their compelling stories. You may download free pdf versions of his published articles on that website at www.davidtdixon.com.

David's latest book is the biography of German revolutionary and Union General August Willich and will be published by the University of Tennessee Press in September 2020. It highlights the contributions of more than 180,000 German-American immigrants to the Union effort in the Civil War. Transatlantic radicals like Willich viewed the war as part of a much larger, global revolution for social justice and republican government.

David is currently writing a biography of U.S. and Confederate Congressman Augustus Wright of Georgia.

The Lost Gettysburg Address

Few remember Edward Everett's oration that preceded Lincoln's famous address, but hardly anyone is aware of Kentucky native Charles Anderson's oration, which concluded the day's events. The speech was never published, and the lost manuscript only recently uncovered at a ranch in Wyoming. Dixon argues that the three featured speeches of November 19, 1863 need to be viewed as a rhetorical ensemble to better understand the political context of the Gettysburg dedication. The back story to this is the saga of Anderson himself, a slaveholder who sacrificed nearly everything to help Lincoln save the Union. An escapee from a Confederate prison in Texas, he became Lincoln's emissary to Great Britain. He then nearly died commanding a Union regiment at Stones River. He eventually became governor of Ohio. These are just some of his amazing adventures during the war.

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James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr.

We regret to inform you that James I. "Bud" Robertson Jr., passed away on Saturday, November 2, after a long battle with cancer. He had spoken at our round table over 40 times beginning in the 1960's and always looked forward to coming to Kentucky. He will be greatly missed by all the Civil War community. William C. "Jack" Davis said, "For fully six decades Bud Robertson was a dominant figure in his field, and a great encouragement to all who would study our turbulent past during the middle of the 19th century, Moreover, amid a conversation that can still become bitter and confrontational, his was a voice for reason, patience, and understanding. In the offing, he has become virtually 'Mr. Virginia,' a spokesperson for the commonwealth past, present, and future. His voice is now sorely missed — and irreplaceable."

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Please note this is a Sunday meeting! Reservations

RESERVATIONS: Please Note!!! If you email Bryan Winslow and **do not** receive a confirmation, you need to call Doug Krawczyk (502-425-0325) 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 (502-425-0325) 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. If you do not receive a confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Thursday, November 14**, 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.

2020 Spring Field Trip: 1865 Carolinas Campaign

Next year's field trip will be to North Carolina where we will study the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. This trip is one we have never done before. The dates for the trip are April 1-5, 2020 and our guide will be Wade Sokolosky. Wade is a retired Colonel and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. He is a leading expert on the 1865 Carolinas Campaign and has led many tours of these historic sites. We will be headquartered in Smithfield, N.C. which is about 30 miles south of Raleigh. From our headquarters in Smithfield we will visit all the major battlefield and historic sites of the 1865 campaign including the battlefields of Wise's Forks, Monroe's Crossroads, Averasboro, and Bentonville. We will also visit several other historic sites and museums in the area including a visit to the C.S.S. Neuse at the Ironclad State Historic Site. There the remains of the Neuse are preserved and there is a full-scale replica of the Neuse. Our Guide, Wade Sokolosky, in addition to leading battlefield tours, has lectured widely on the Carolinas Campaign at historic organizations and roundtables and has co-authored with Mike Smith "No such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Sherman's Carolinas Campaign". He is the author of "Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses in the 1865 Carolinas Campaign". Wade's latest book, also co-authored with Mike Smith, "To Prepare for Sherman's Coming: The Battle of Wise's Forks, March 1865". We are very fortunate to have Wade as our guide and we are looking forward to another great field trip. Mark your calendars for April 1-5, 2020. **We will begin signups at the November meeting.**

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The Battle of Averasboro

By mid-March, 1865, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman had moved his army into North Carolina in pursuit of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Confederates. Since turning north from his march to the sea, Sherman had met little Confederate resistance as he moved to prevent Johnston's army from joining Robert E. Lee's army in Virginia. The two wings of Sherman's army traveled north on parallel routes, the left toward the state capital at Raleigh and the right toward the road junction at Goldsboro.

On the afternoon of March 15, Sherman's cavalry screen under Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick came up against Lieut. Gen. William Hardee's corps, consisting of Brig. Gens. William B. Taliaferro's and Lafayette McLaw's infantry divisions and Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler's cavalry. The Confederates were deployed across the Raleigh Road near Averasboro, 40 miles south of Raleigh. Hardee was the pre-war Commandant of Cadets at West Point and author of "Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics," the definitive combat manual carried by soldiers in both armies. His orders were to delay Sherman's 25,000-man left wing under Maj. Gen. Henry W. Slocum so that Johnston could consolidate his remaining forces to defend the road networks connecting Raleigh and Goldsboro. Hardee posted his 6,000-man corps in a well-chosen position astride the road, with the Cape Fear River anchoring his right flank and the Black River swamps to the east anchoring his left.

After feeling out the Confederate defenses, Kilpatrick withdrew and called for infantry support. During the night, two divisions of the XX Corps under Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams from Slocum's wing arrived to confront Hardee's men arrayed across the plantation of the John C. Smith family. At dawn on March 16, Williams' infantry advanced against McLaws' division on the Confederate left and drove back the rebel skirmishers, but was stopped by the main Confederate line and a sharp counterattack. Around mid-morning, Williams renewed his advance with reinforcements on his left and drove Taliaferro's Confederates from two lines of works, but was repulsed at a third line of defenders. Late that afternoon, two divisions from the Union XIV Corps under Maj. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, also from Slocum's army wing, arrived on the field and attempted to flank the Confederate right where they were stopped with significant casualties by Wheeler's dismounted cavalry. Sporadic fighting continued into the evening with little result. Around 8:30 pm, Hardee

withdrew from the battlefield and retreated north toward Smithfield, leaving his campfires burning to conceal his departure.

Despite being outnumbered nearly four to one, Hardee's one-day delay of Sherman's force was successful. Losses for both sides were about even. Hardee bought time for Johnston to consolidate his army near Bentonville where both sides would fight again three days later.

The Battle of Averasboro was fought on the 8,000-acre Smithville Plantation along the Cape Fear River, 20 miles northeast of Fayetteville. A small museum, visitor center, some monuments, and marked trails interpret the battle fought here. We will visit this battlefield on our field trip.

This battle summary was taken from the American Battlefield Trust website. You can donate by visiting the American Battlefield Trust website at www.battlefields.org.

CVBT Announces A Preservation Victory Along Brock Road

Earlier this week, Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) announced a preservation victory at Spotsylvania, along historic Brock Road. 14.4 acres which had been zoned for residential properties can now be preserved and restored to their 1864 appearance to tell the stories of courage and commitment, determination and sacrifice. The significance of the land is tied to the history of the Battle of Spotsylvania during the Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864.

Part of a commanding ridge, this key tract of land was a pivotal point during the Battle of Spotsylvania in May 1864. Here, Union General G. K. Warren and his Fifth Corps staged for their initial attacks on May 8, 1864, which opened the new battle after Grant's decision to press forward after the Battle of the Wilderness. The Fifth Corps used the land as a rallying point both on May 8 and later on May 10 and 12. As the Union lines shifted during the battle, this ground along Brock Road became the defensive cornerstone for the Union Army and also an avenue for Confederate movements when the Southerners probed the Union defenses.

Robert Lee Hodge, historic preservationist and a CVBT board member (and ECW author), has labelled Brock Road: "One of the most historical roads in America."

- During the Battle of Chancellorsville, Confederate General "Stonewall" Jackson used portions of the road during his famed flanked march.
- Major fighting occurred along the road during Battle of the Wilderness, and at the Brock Road and Orange Plank intersection, General Ulysses S. Grant turned south, continuing the Overland Campaign.
- Battle occurred along the road during the Battle of Spotsylvania, including the "Fifth Corps Tract" now preserved by Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

While the board and staff at CVBT celebrate this wonderful preservation victory that ensures these 14.4 acres of battleground will not be paved over or subdivided for building projects, they also expressed the need to look forward to future opportunities to save hallowed land along this historic road as it becomes available for purchase. To learn more about Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and their efforts at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness, and Spotsylvania, visit their website: <https://www.cvbt.org/>

2019 - 2020 Schedule

Sunday November 17	David Dixon	"The Lost Gettysburg Address"
Saturday December 7	Matthew Borowick	"The Court Martial of Fitz-John Porter"
Saturday January 18	Kent Masterson Brown	"The Civil War: Kentucky's Mercurial Path"
Saturday February 15	Chris Kolakowski	"TBA"
Saturday March 14	Keith Bohannon	"James Longstreet and John Bell Hood"
Saturday April 18	Michael Parrish	"The Importance of Texas in the Civil War"
Saturday May 9	William C. Davis	"TBA"

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The Emerging Civil War Website

I urge all of you to subscribe to the Emerging Civil War website! Lots of great articles and news and yes, its free. Just logon to emergingcivilwar.com and enter your email address and you will get timely articles and news. They are beginning a series on "Do We Still Care: The Civil War in a Changing America". This should be a very interesting series and a topic we are all interested in. EmergingCivilWar.com.

From the Emerging Civil War Website:

Site of Stonewall Jackson's Death Gets New Name

Posted by [Chris Mackowski](#)

A subtle but important change is underway at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP): the site where Stonewall Jackson died is getting renamed. The building formerly known as the Stonewall Jackson Shrine will henceforth be officially referred to as the Stonewall Jackson Death Site.

The reasons for the change, says FSNMP Chief Historian and Chief of Interpretation John Hennessy, is to help give visitors a clearer a sense of what to expect when they visit.

"[T]he name 'Jackson Shrine' is not very helpful to visitors," he says. "Most people have no idea what to expect. They expect a shrine in a modern sense, and of course, the term 'shrine,' which was commonly used for a historic site in the 1920s, is hardly ever used in that context today."

The name "Jackson Shrine" dates back to a casual reference in a newspaper article written by Virginia Lee Cox for the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* on November 16, 1926:

Yesterday in the simple, little, frame house near Guinea Station where, on May 10, 1863, General Stonewall Jackson died, a group of interested women transformed the bare, little room in which he "crossed over the river" into some semblance of its original setting, and made there the beginnings of a Jackson Museum which they hope will grow into a fitting tribute to one of the South's great heroes.

While the name change might be a "significant issue" for some, Hennessy thinks the benefits far outweigh those issues. "Because the nature of the site's not changing, and we think it really serves our visitors and serves the site, too, and its security, we think it's the right thing to do," he says. "So we're forging ahead."

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OCTOBER 2019 QUIZ:

- 1. What was the birth name of Confederate General Gist?
At birth, his father named him States Right, and his family called him States.
- 2. Who was general-in-chief of the U.S. Army at the beginning of the Civil War?
General Winfield Scott was general-in-chief. He retired on November 1, 1861 and was replaced by General George McClellan.
- 3. Who was known as the Fighting Bishop?
Confederate General Leonidas Polk was also an Episcopal bishop. He was killed on June 14, 1864 by artillery fire during the Atlanta Campaign.
- 4. What constitutional amendment freed the slaves and on what dates did this happen?
The Thirteenth Amendment was passed by the Senate on April 8, 1864, by the House on January 31, 1865, and by the required number of states (27) by December 6, 1865. It was formally adopted on December 18, 1865.
- 5. Which Virginia town changed hands over 70 times during the Civil War?
That would be Winchester, Virginia.

NOVEMBER 2019 QUIZ:

- 1. What was the Anaconda Plan?
- 2. What was Confederate General Leonidas Polk's middle name?
- 3. For a time after his swearing in as President, why did Andrew Johnson not have use of the Presidential office?
- 4. What is said to be the most popular spare-time occupation of Civil War soldiers?
- 5. During the siege of Vicksburg, why did the shelling of the city cease at 8:00 a.m., Noon, and 8:00 p.m.?

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Attest:
John Davis
Adjutant

By Order of:
Marc Oca
President