



Circular Memorandum #499

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September 2018

Announcing Our 530th Meeting

## **"A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater"**

**Will be Presented by A. Wilson Greene**

**DATE: Friday, September 7**

**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 - A. Wilson Greene**

We welcome back our friend Will Greene to the September meeting. Will recently completed a 44-year career in public history as a park historian, battlefield preservationist, and museum director. Greene holds degrees in history from Florida State University and Louisiana State University, where he did his graduate work under the legendary T. Harry Williams. He worked for the National Park Service for sixteen years, was the first executive director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the Civil War Trust) and is the founding executive director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier.



He is the author of six books and more than 20 published articles on Civil War history, Greene's latest publication is *A Campaign of Giants: The Petersburg Campaign from the Crossing of the James to the Battle of the Crater*. This is the first of a projected three-volume study of the Petersburg Campaign from the University of North Carolina Press.

Greene lives in Walden, Tennessee with his wife, Maggie, and his cat, Ozzie Guillen. Will was our guide on the Petersburg field trip we took in 1998 and the Shenandoah 1864 field trip we took in 2013 and will be our guide on next spring's field trip to cover Jackson's 1862 Shenandoah campaign.

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## "A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater"

The Petersburg Campaign lasted 292 days, but the one Petersburg event that stands out for most students of the Civil War is the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. The basic facts about this infamous engagement that Ulysses S. Grant called "the saddest affair I have witnessed in the war" are well known. A Pennsylvania regiment, full of former coal miners, dug a mine shaft in which they packed 8,000 pounds of black powder under a prominent Confederate fort. The explosion blasted a huge hole in the ground, but the Union attackers, instead of going around the crater, stopped and sought shelter. Confederate counterattacks regained the lost ground in some of the war's most brutal close-quarters combat. Will Greene discovered in the course of his research new information, some of which runs counter to the standard Crater narrative. His illustrated talk, "A Perfect Hell of Blood," will reveal some of those findings and in the process remind listeners how war can transform men into remorseless killers.

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### "BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS!!"

Will Greene will have his new book, *A Campaign of Giants: From the Crossing of the James to the Battle of the Crater* available at the meeting. The book addresses the opening six weeks of the contest for Petersburg, concluding with a detailed discussion of the Battle of the Crater. It is the first of three volumes that will cover the entire Petersburg campaign.

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**Please note this is a Friday meeting!**

The remodeling of the front entrance to Big Spring is now complete and we can enter through the new entrance.

### 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](mailto: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, September 5**, 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.

### Round Table Member Michaeleen "Mickey" Peck Passes

Sadly, we must report the passing of Round Table member Mickey Peck who passed away on August 4, 2018. Mickey and her husband, Kevin Clark, have been members of our Round Table since October of 2004. Mickey has served on our Board of Directors for a number of years and has worked on several projects within our organization. She was always willing to volunteer and help whenever the call went out. She and Kevin also attended several of our field trips. She will be greatly missed.



Mickey was born in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland to a military family that traveled to many different military installations as she was growing up. She completed her secondary education at St. Andrew's Priory School in Honolulu, Hawaii. She earned a B.A. in Sociology from Augusta State University, a M.Ed. from The University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University. Her dissertation on tenth grade student writing was published in 1982. While at the University of South Carolina she met fellow graduate student Kevin Clark and they married in a beautiful June ceremony at a small church near her ancestral home in South Carolina in 1979.

As a professional educator, she held a faculty position at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and later moved to South Carolina with her husband where she taught at various elementary and secondary schools. Upon relocating to Louisville in 1999, she taught at the Jefferson County Public Schools until her retirement. Not one to sit idle, Mickey volunteered with the JCPS Everyone Reads program for several years. Mickey enjoyed kayaking, history, and book collecting. She was an opera aficionado, regularly attending performances at the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, the Cincinnati Opera, and the Kentucky Opera. She was a dedicated member of the Order of the Daughters of the King at St Matthews Episcopal Church. Mickey also had a great love of animals.

In addition to her husband Kevin, she is survived by her devoted brother, Michael P. Peck, and her friend and sister-in-law, Patricia Norton Peck. The celebration of her life was held on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church. The Round Table wishes to express our heartfelt sympathies to Kevin and to her family and friends.

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### A Message from Our President - Bryan Winslow

It is my honor to serve as President for the upcoming year. We have a full slate of outstanding speakers lined up and the Spring field trip should prove to be an interesting study of the 1862 Shenandoah Campaign. The Bourbon & Barbecue fundraiser was a sold-out success, with all attendees enjoying a day of great food, Irish whiskey tasting, history and fellowship while raising funds to supplement the LCWRT budget for speakers and preservation. I would like to thank Art Boerner for his leadership last year and wish to acknowledge the work and commitment of both last year's and our current Board of Directors and Officers. I am looking forward to an exciting year and hope to see all current members and hopefully several new members at future meetings and events.

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**2019 Spring Field Trip: Jackson's Valley Campaign of 1862**

Next year's field trip will be to the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia where we will study the famous 1862 Valley Campaign of Stonewall Jackson. The dates for the trip are April 24-28, 2019 and our guide will be Will Greene. Will is one of the best guides we have ever had and we are looking forward to having him interpret Stonewall Jackson's epic valley campaign of 1862. We will be headquartered in Harrisonburg from which we will traverse up and down the Valley visiting all the major sites of the campaign. It has been 25 years since the Round Table took a field trip to study this important operation. If you want to begin reading about the 1862 Valley Campaign, a good place to start is Robert Tanner's "Stonewall in the Valley" (revised edition). Also, highly recommended are Gary Gallagher's collection of essays "The Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862", Peter Cozzens's "Shenandoah 1862" which presents the campaign mostly from the Northern point of view, and Robert K. Krick's "Conquering the Valley" which is a very detailed study of the Battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic. There will be more information on the trip and readings in the coming issues of the Adjutant's Call. Will Greene will be the speaker at our September meeting and in addition to speaking on "The Battle of the Crater", he will talk a little about what we can expect on the field trip. We expect this trip to sell out, so you will want to make your reservations early. We will begin signups at the November meeting.

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**2018 - 2019 Schedule**

Friday September 7	Will Greene	"A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater"
Friday October 12	Jeffrey Wert	"The Barons of the Civil War"
Sunday November 18	Bud Robertson	"Robert E. Lee and the Pursuit of Peace"
Saturday December 8	Clay Stuckey	"The Trials and Tribulations of the Corpse of Abraham Lincoln"
Saturday January 19	Brian Steele Wills	"TBA"
Saturday February 9	Michael Murphy	"The Kimberlins Go to War"
Saturday March 9	Stephen Davis	"Earning His Spurs: General John B. Hood in 1864"
Saturday April 13	Chris Mackowski	"TBA"
Saturday May 11	TBA	"TBA"

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**2018-2019 Board of Directors****PRESIDENT:**

Bryan Winslow  
4068 South Ray Road  
Underwood, IN 47177  
812-752-3990  
Cell: 502-548-3974  
bryanw@macconstruction.com

**PRESIDENT-ELECT:**

Marc Oca  
2101 Utica Pike  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130  
812-283-8744  
Cell: 502-744-7888  
Ocamarc2101@gmail.com

**SECRETARY:**

Harriette Weatherbee  
1028 Sarah Drive  
Louisville, KY 40219-4923  
Cell: 502-609-4485  
harriettew@att.net

**TREASURER:**

Paul Fridell  
2710 Razor View Court  
Louisville, KY 40299  
Cell: 502-744-4184  
pfridell@twc.com

**BOARD:**

John Davis  
8800 Swan Hill Road  
Louisville, KY 40241-1150  
Cell: 502-759-1152  
Johnd.davis@twc.com

Dave Deatrick  
7200 Wyndefair Court  
Prospect, KY 40059-9690  
502-228-3409  
ddeatrick@dsatty.com

Sid Gamersfelder  
406 Lyndonwoods Circle  
Louisville, KY 40222  
Cell: 847-204-7371  
sgamertsfelder@gmail.com

Lowell Griffin  
9818 Tamarisk Parkway  
Louisville, KY 40223-2843  
502-423-1861

Doug Krawczyk  
7413 Springvale Drive  
Louisville, KY 40241-2738  
502-425-3646  
Cell: 502-592-6864  
Doug.krawczyk@nortek.com

Doug Kremer  
11024 Indian Legends Drive  
#203  
Louisville, KY 40241  
Home 502-632-2058  
Cell 502-240-2438  
dkremer49@twc.com

Tom Lively  
371 West Maple Street  
Caneyville, KY 42721  
270-879-6118  
Cell: 270-589-9399  
tomlively7@gmail.com

Dave Hoffmann  
105 Dublin Lane  
Shelbyville, KY 40465-7824  
502-437-0429  
Hoff331@yahoo.com

Don Meyer  
2918 Lexham Rd.  
Louisville, KY 40220  
502-491-2704  
dgravesmeyer@yahoo.com

Terry Pyles  
8106 Meadowgreen Place  
Louisville, KY 40299  
502-690-7066  
Cell 614-738-5105  
tpky3110@gmail.com

Art Boerner  
2200  $\frac{1}{2}$  Utica Pike  
Jeffersonville, IN  
812-288-9646  
Cell: 502-558-4192  
[abob1407@yahoo.com](mailto:abob1407@yahoo.com)

**SUMMER 2018 QUIZ:**

1. Who was the first Confederate general to be captured on the field at the Battle of Gettysburg?

*That would be Brigadier General James Archer.*

2. Who ordered the destruction of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) after the Battle of New Market?

*That was Union Major General David Hunter.*

3. Who were the three Confederate generals assigned to arrange the details of General Lee's surrender to General Grant?

*They were Generals James Longstreet, John Gordon, and William Pendleton.*

4. Who were the three Union commanders who conferred with President Lincoln at City Point, Virginia in March 1865?

*They were General Ulysses Grant, General William Sherman, and Admiral David Porter.*

5. What war aid did the King of Siam offer President Lincoln?

*President Lincoln declined the offer of War Elephants.*

**SEPTEMBER 2018 QUIZ:**

1. Among the items found in President Lincoln's pocket following his assassination was a brown leather wallet. What was in the wallet?
2. What company completed the first transcontinental telegraph line?
3. Camp Sumter, a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp, was known by what other name?
4. What U.S. Army rank did Robert E. Lee hold at the time of John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry?
5. Who were the two prominent abolitionists originally invited by John Brown to join his Harper's Ferry raid?

**(The Quiz is prepared by Harriette Weatherbee)**

**Attest:**

**John Davis  
Adjutant**

**By Order of:**

**Bryan Winslow  
President**