



Circular Memorandum #509

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September 2019

Announcing Our 544th Meeting

"Inglorious Passages"

Will be Presented by Brian Steel Wills

DATE: Sunday, September 15

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 - Brian Steel Wills

We are pleased to welcome back to our Round Table Brian Steel Wills. He is the director of the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia, after a long tenure at the University of Virginia's College at Wise.



He is the author of numerous works relating to the American Civil War, including a new volume - *The River Was Dyed with Blood: Nathan Bedford Forrest and Fort Pillow*.

His other titles include: *A Battle From the Start: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* Reprinted as: *The Confederacy's Greatest Cavalryman: Nathan Bedford Forrest*. This work was chosen as both a History Book Club selection and a Book of the Month Club selection.

He also authored, *The War in Southeastern Virginia*, released in October, 2001, and *No Ordinary College: A History of The University of Virginia's College at Wise*, (2004), both by the University Press of Virginia. *Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema* appeared in 2006. An updated edition of the James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., *Civil War Sites in Virginia* (Virginia, 2011) arrived just in time for the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War, and in 2012 and 2013, Brian authored *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel* and *Confederate General William Dorsey Pender: The Hope of Glory*.

In 2000, Dr. Wills received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the state of Virginia, one of eleven recipients from all faculty members at public and private institutions across the state. He was named Kenneth Asbury Professor of History and won both the Teaching award and the Research and Publication award from UVA-Wise.

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"Inglorious Passages"

Inglorious Passages received the Harwell Award at the Atlanta Civil War Roundtable for the best book of 2017, and it was a finalist for the 2017 Emerging Civil War Book Award. In my talk, I will try to shine a light on those stories of individuals that went to war and didn't come home and try to understand the full element of what those stories involved. I think back on a Georgia recruit who's spelling was challenged, but he would talk about the "vakants" in the ranks, and he said that those folks would not be able to rejoin the circle of friends—and he couldn't spell "circle" either—or be around the fireside. Those places would never be filled. That made me think that those individuals need not be forgotten.

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Books! Books! Books!

We will have some of Brian Steel Wills books available at the meeting for sale *Inglorious Passages*, *Nathan Bedford Forrest* and *Fort Pillow*, and *George Henry Thomas: As True as Steel*.

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Please note this is a Sunday meeting!

Big Spring has informed us that they are doing another remodeling project that will affect the parking for meetings. This time the back lot will be closed for the next several months. Big Spring has promised us there will be adequate parking available and they will provide a shuttle service from the front lot to the 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. If you do not receive a confirmation from Bryan, please call Doug and make your reservation. Please call or email **no later than Thursday, September 12**, 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.

A Message from Our President - Marc Oca

It is an honor to serve as your president for the upcoming 2019-2020 year. We have a great line-up of speakers this year, that I believe, make our Round Table the best in the country. I want to thank Bryan Winslow for his leadership last year. Bryan has served in many capacities over the years and we should all thank him for his service. I would also like to thank the past and current Board of Directors for their commitment to the Louisville Civil War Round Table.

For the first time, our annual field trip will visit Bentonville and Averagesborough as part of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign. This trip is scheduled for April 1-5 with our guide Wade Sokolosky. Wade is renowned for his knowledge of the 1865 Carolinas Campaign, so mark your calendars. Plans are already underway for our 2020 Bourbon and Barbeque fundraiser. More information regarding dates will be forthcoming.

Update on Perryville Battlefield: This summer, the Board of Directors decided to make a \$6,000 grant to the Perryville Battlefield Association to assist them in their purchase of 128 acres of battlefield land in Perryville, KY. John Davis discussed this in our summer newsletter, but if you missed it, there are several matching grants that will provide additional funding. Because of these matching grants, our \$6,000 donation will result in over \$35,000 of funding for the purchase of this land.

The purpose of the Louisville Civil Round Table, as stated on our Website, is to study all aspects of the American Civil War and to promote the interchange of knowledge about it. Sadly, in my opinion, our current political environment has been attacking many aspects of our history. As John C. Klotter, a retired history professor at Georgetown College stated so eloquently, *"We must not forget our history. In Greek mythology, those who drink from the river of Hades, lose their memory. They become endless wanderers, without direction, without a past, without a purpose. In times of great change, we need our historical memory, now more than ever."*

I am looking forward to serving as President of the Louisville Civil War Round Table this year. I will see all of you at our September meeting.

2019 - 2020 Schedule

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|----------------------|----------------------|--|
| Sunday September 15 | Brian Wills | "Inglorious Passages" |
| Friday October 11 | Eric Wittenberg | "Sherman's Carolinas Campaign of 1865" |
| Sunday November 17 | Bud Robertson | "Robert E. Lee and the Quest for Peace" |
| 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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Battle of Mill Springs Reenactment

There will be a reenactment of the Battle of Mill Springs in Nancy Kentucky November 1st thru 3rd. 2019. It will be held on the actual historic Mill Springs Battlefield. There will be daily battles, Civil War encampments, a sutler area, Civil War music, crafts, an evening ball and much more. For more information visit the website WWW.Millsprings2019.com.

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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 of 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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Great Opportunity to Save Battlefield Land at Perryville!

The Civil War Trust, now known as the American Battlefield Trust, is working to save one of the last large parcels of land at Perryville and you can help them do this.

The 128 acres currently at stake at Perryville - scene of the bloodiest Civil War battle ever fought in Kentucky - represent the largest remaining unprotected part of the battlefield. If we and our partners succeed in saving this hallowed ground, it will mean that 90-95 percent of that battlefield is preserved forever!

These 128 acres truly are the "hole in the donut" needed to connect the various parts of the preserved battlefield. This land, located in the eastern section of the battlefield, offers a tremendous opportunity for historical and recreational tourism, while preserving a unique historical resource that will benefit the citizens of the local community, state and nation.

Perryville was the largest and bloodiest battle fought in Kentucky. It saw more casualties (7,600) than many other well-known battles including Champion Hill (6,700), Resaca (5,600), or Kennesaw Mountain (4,000) and more than all the casualties in Jackson's famous Valley Campaign combined.

[Perryville Battlefield](#) is already - thanks in large part to generous supporters like you - one of the best-preserved battlefields in America, with more than a thousand acres under protection. However, if we cannot save this land, the tracts may be lost to development, preventing future public access and compromising the rest of the preserved battlefield.

Best of all, thanks to generous matching grants, we only need to raise \$177,761 to achieve this remarkable feat. While the purchase price and closing costs for the land total \$1,040,523, if we can raise 17% of that amount, or \$177,761, we can match a \$462,762 from the federal American Battlefield Protection Program. A

grant from the generous HTR Foundation for another \$400,000 will get us to the finish line to save this critical history forever. This means that every dollar you give to save this land will be turned into \$5.85!

If you can help save this land with a gift of \$64 or more, you will receive a free book that has just been released as part of the "Command Decisions of the Civil War" series published by the University of Tennessee Press. The book, *Decisions of the 1862 Kentucky Campaign: The Twenty-Seven Decisions That Defined the Operation*, is more than just a history of the Kentucky Campaign. Author Larry Peterson focuses on the critical decisions confronting commanders on both sides of the clash to provide a blueprint of the campaign at its tactical core. The book comes with maps and a guided tour and will give you a deeper understanding of the important Kentucky Campaign of 1862.

You can donate by visiting the American Battlefield Trust website at www.battlefields.org and clicking on the Perryville donation page. You can also donate by mail by sending your check made out to the American Battlefield Trust: American Battlefield Trust, 1140 Professional Court, Hagerstown, MD. 21740.

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SUMMER 2019 QUIZ:

1. Who were the three commanders who conferred with President Lincoln at City Point, Virginia, in March 1865?
They were General Ulysses S. Grant, General William T. Sherman, and Admiral David D. Porter.
2. Who was with General Lee at the McLean house in Appomattox Court House, Virginia, when he surrendered on April 9, 1865?
With Lee was one of his aides, Colonel Charles Marshall of Maryland.
3. Who was the Confederate commander at the December 1864 Battle of Nashville?
That was General John Bell Hood.
4. Who commanded the United States Sharpshooters?
Commanding them was Colonel Hiram Berden.
5. What famous World War II general's father served with the 24th Wisconsin Division during the Civil War?
General Douglas MacArthur's father, Lieutenant Arthur MacArthur, Jr., enlisted in and served with the 24th Wisconsin.

SEPTEMBER 2019 QUIZ:

1. On June 28, 1863, Major General George Gordon Meade assumed command of what Union Army?
2. Who commanded the Confederate Light Division?
3. Who was the final casualty of the Civil War prison camps?
4. Who did the most to keep Europe neutral during the Civil War?
5. What was Union General U. S. Grant's first Civil War battle?

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Attest:
John Davis
Adjutant

By Order of:
Marc Oca
President