



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table
Founded 1949

November Meeting

Reservations are required

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DINNER
RESERVATION IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$39 PER PERSON ONLINE AT

www.atlantacwrt.org

Scroll down to the left to pay online

Or Mail to the Following Address:

Tim Whalen: P.O Box 2355

Griffin, GA: 30224

**TO REACH TIM NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY BEFORE THE
MEETING.**

Date: Tuesday, November 12

Time: Cocktails 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Place: Capital City Club-
Downtown; 7 John
Portman Blvd.

Price: **\$39** per person

Program: Wayne E. Motts

*Trust in God and Fear Nothing:
General Armistead's Final Battle*

Menu for November Meeting

Mixed Baby Lettuces

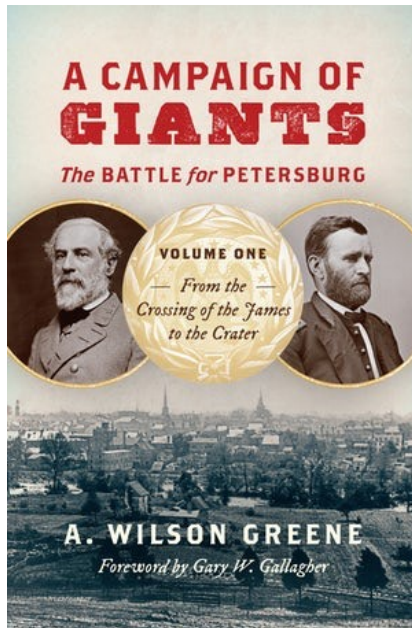
Roasted and Sliced Turkey Breast

Apple Tartlet

Trust in God and Fear Nothing: General Armistead's Final Battle

Confederate General Lewis Armistead courageously led his men to what later became known as the "high-water mark" of the Confederacy during Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. From an esteemed military family, Armistead faced early setbacks. He withdrew from West Point but his father's influence won him a second lieutenant's commission in 1839. Afterwards his dedication never wavered though he was widowed twice, bereaved of two children and endured a serious illness. Notably, in a 22-year career, Armistead joined a pivotal 1847 Mexican War assault on the castle of Chapultepec. An Army Captain in 1861, he resigned when his native Virginia seceded. Departing for the Confederacy, Armistead left a prayer book inscribed "trust in God and fear nothing" with Almira, the wife of his good friend Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, later his adversary at Gettysburg. Armistead was mortally wounded there while reaching his army's highest aspiration for victory. He died two days later.

Expect an outstanding November program! Historian Wayne E. Motts, author of *Trust in God and Fear Nothing: Lewis A. Armistead, CSA and Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg: A Guide to the Most Famous Attack in American History* (with co-author James Hessler) will be our speaker. Chief Executive officer of the National Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Wayne has been a guide at Gettysburg for 27 years.



This Year's Harwell Award

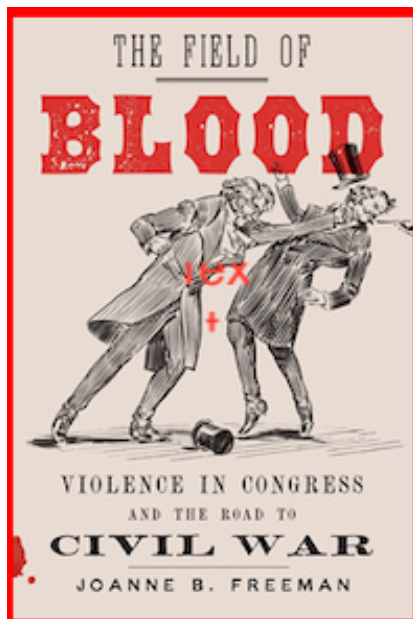
For remarkable readability combined with depth of scholarship, the Atlanta Civil War Round Table named *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg, Volume One—From the Crossing of the James to the Crater* its 31st Harwell Award winner, said Harwell Committee Chairman Gary Barnes. “The Petersburg Campaign is one of the most complex of the War and Will Greene’s book provides an accessible and comprehensive account.” *Campaign of Giants* is the first book in a trilogy Will is writing for publication by the University of North Carolina Press.

In December: 2019 Harwell Award Winner A. Wilson Greene on Petersburg

Historian A. Wilson Greene, winner of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table’s 2019 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award for his latest book, *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg*, will be the speaker for our December meeting. One of the nation’s leading authorities on the Petersburg Campaign, Will served for 16 years as historian and park manager at Petersburg National Battlefield and at the Fredricksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. The founding director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Will also served as first executive director for Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the American Battlefield Trust). He is the author of six books and more than 25 articles on the Civil War and Southern history. Will’s talk will describe the bloody battles of Petersburg that raged for more than nine months from June of 1864 to spring 1865. Afterwards, the Round Table will honor Will with this year’s Harwell Award.

Sherman’s March to the Sea Claimed ‘A Harvest of Death’ at Griswoldville

Our October speaker Greg Biggs analyzed Sherman’s intricate logistics before the Atlanta Campaign. Greg’s talk seems like a timely lead into this month in history as after his conquest of Atlanta in July of 1864, General Sherman began his March to the Sea that November of 1864. Griswoldville, a Middle Georgia railroad and industrial hub, was a target. The local militia, consisting of men 16 to 60, hastily joined Confederate forces, hoping to stop Sherman. They fought bravely but lost. Even seasoned Union soldiers were horrified that so many boys and elderly men died. The aftermath was deemed a “harvest of death.” On Saturday, November 23 there will be a 155th Anniversary Commemoration of the battle from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Griswoldville Battlefield, administered by the Jarrell Plantation State Historical Site: 711 Jarrell Plantation Road/ Julliette, GA 31046. <https://explore.gastateparks.org/info/153653> Admission is free.



Harwell Award Finalist

American political life has always been rife with conflict but never so much as it was in the years leading up to the Civil War. Then congressmen brandished pistols and Bowie knives. Historian Joanne B. Freeman, professor of American Studies at Yale, has published works on dueling and has served as historical consultant for the National Park Service. The Harwell Award Committee named her book 2019 finalist for its in-depth look at political violence and its influence in the popular press and in civic life. It's hoped she'll be a speaker at a future ACWRT meeting.

The President's Corner

Now that we have expanded the **Battle lines** format, with a little more room to communicate with you, the Membership, I will try to share some things of interest each month. We now have in hand over 50 years of Round Table archives as compiled by COL Jim Bogle and saved by Leon McElveen, and I thought for this month you would like to hear the **Battle Lines** news from March of 1967.

Our President was Mr. Holcombe Green; we met for dinner at "Yohannon's Across The Street Restaurant" on Lenox Road, and dinner cost \$4.00. Dr. Horace Montgomery, a professor at the University of Georgia, spoke on the life in War & Peace of Howell Cobb. Plans were being made for a field trip to visit Andersonville and its prison camp on May 13th (and it happened). New Members faced an initiation fee of \$5.00, and annual dues were \$10.00 (the "good old days")!

Also, sadly, we had just lost a giant in the Round Table and contributor to the story of Civil War history in Georgia, Wilber Kurtz. Franklin Garrett, who knew more about the history of Atlanta than any other man of his generation, and a close friend of Mr. Kurtz, wrote an "In Memorium" that was published in this **Battle Lines**. We reproduce it here for you 52 years later. And I might say that the last paragraph could have been written this year for our friend, Leon McElveen, Jr.

John

Officers for the 2019-2020 Campaign

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Editor	Vacant as of July 30, 2019

IN MEMORIAM
WILBUR GEORGE KURTZ
February 28, 1882 - February 18, 1967

The campaign for Atlanta, from Dalton to its objective, took little more than five months in mid-1864. Wilbur G. Kurtz devoted 64 years to its study.

Born in Illinois, less than 18 years after the campaign was fought, his mind was attracted in youth to the Andrews Railroad Raid of 1862, a prelude, so-to-speak, of the Campaign. He determined to interview surviving participants and to that end, in 1903, at the age of 21, came to Atlanta to interview Captain William A. Fuller, the former Western & Atlantic conductor whose relentless pursuit of the men who stole his train was a key factor in the failure of the Raid.

Young Mr. Kurtz was graciously received by Captain Fuller. Eight years later, in 1911, after completing his studies at the Chicago Art Institute, the artist-historian married Annie Laurie, one of the late Captain Fuller's four daughters, and became a permanent resident of Atlanta.

For the remainder of his life, the Atlanta Campaign was never far from his thoughts. He walked over every foot of the terrain involved, from Lookout Mountain to Lovejoy's Station. He interviewed countless participants and elderly citizens, drew maps, photographed old houses, mills and other pertinent structures. All this detailed information was carefully recorded in large folio note books against the time when it might appear as the basis of "A Field Book of the Atlanta Campaign."

While Mr. Kurtz wrote numerous published articles relating to the Campaign and assisted literally hundreds of students of the War--for he was ever generous with his hard-won information--he never finished putting together his "Field Book." It is to be hoped that the Atlanta Historical Society, of which he was an honorary member, will become the agency through which this lifetime labor of love can be assembled and printed. No other campaign of the war had such singleness of purpose devoted to it..

In 1946, Mr. Kurtz' first wife, the mother of his five children, passed away. In 1949 he was married to Miss Annie R. Pye, of Woodland, Georgia, a former art student of his. For nearly 18 years she presided lovingly over his home and was a source of constant encouragement in his historical research and painting.

The Atlanta Civil War Round Table has lost its most knowledgeable member; numerous Atlantans have lost a modest, unassuming and sincere friend; and the community, a fountainhead of information. His character and his accomplishments will be long and gratefully remembered.

--Franklin M. Garrett