



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta
Founded 1949

PROMOTING THE SERIOUS STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

March Meeting

Join us via Zoom

Tuesday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Technical Help

Zoom assistance is available.
Email Wood Hughes at
wood.hughes@gmail.com.

Battle Lines

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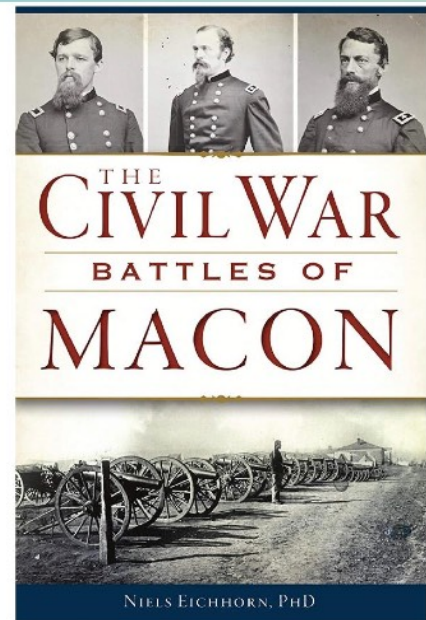
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Video Book Reviews

Please see our website:
www.atlantacwrt.org for links
to Harwell Committee
Member Robert Fugate's
Video Book Reviews.

Exploring Macon's Battles

Analyses of the battles fought in North Georgia and Atlanta, preceding Sherman's March to the Sea, have overshadowed those fought in Middle Georgia. But there were significant battles, especially in Macon, which served as a cornerstone of the Confederacy's military operations. The city's importance as a transportation and supply hub made it a significant Federal target. Our speaker, Niels Eichorn, earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Arkansas. His articles of Civil War diplomacy and the American Nineteenth Century have been published in *Civil War History* and *American Nineteenth*



Century History. Most recently, Niels contributed an article to the *The Journal of the Civil War Era* from the University of North Carolina Press. His February post there looks at the story of Macon's antebellum Asa Holt House: <https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2021/02/civil-war-macon/>.

The Strength of Heaven: A Prayer for March

St. Patrick:

Born in Scotland, kidnapped to and enslaved in Ireland, St. Patrick's life exemplifies many values of what we now call Celtic Christianity. After escaping his harsh captors, he vowed to return to the people who had treated him so cruelly, to preach the gospel and serve the needy. For his selflessness, the nation honors him as their patron saint.

This excerpt from a prayer traditionally ascribed to St. Patrick exemplifies a hallmark of Celtic belief and practice, namely an emphasis on the relation of Creation to spirituality. Unlike other traditions within Christianity, that typically shy away from anything that might smack of paganism, Celts continued to embrace and give voice to their convictions that Nature and Nature's God appropriately inform one's religion.

I arise today
Through the strength of
heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.
I arise today
Through the mighty strength
Of the Lord of creation.



This Celtic Cross stands in the cemetery of Christ Church, St. Simons, Georgia. Photo Courtesy Tammala Harkins.

Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Atlanta Civil War Round Table Chaplain

Passages: *Past Presidents Jerry Colley and Dennis Kelly*

In February, two of our Atlanta Civil War Round Table past presidents Jerry Colley, who served from 1985-86, and Dennis Kelly, who followed him at the helm from 1986-87, died. We report the passage of these two remarkable men with heavy hearts, yet rejoicing in their singular lives and in their invaluable contributions to our community and the study of the American Civil War.

Jerry Colley (1944-2021)

An Atlanta native and life-long history buff, past president Jerry Colley was active in the ACWRT for many years and also a founder of the Atlanta WWII Round Table. He died of complications from leukemia February 17. After attending St. Pius X Catholic High School, Jerry received a BBA in Accounting from Georgia State University in 1966; his Master of Professional Accountancy, also from GSU in 1968 and his GSU Master of Taxation in 1983. Jerry served in the Finance Corps of the U.S. Army from February 1968 until his honorable discharge in 1969. His military service took him to Ft. Benning, Ft. Ord in California and for one year to Vietnam at Long Binh, where he was in charge of payrolls for Vietnamese workers on the post. He was there during the Tet attacks on the base and manned a perimeter bunker. While in the Army, he also taught accounting for the University of Maryland Ling Binh Campus. Jerry married Gloria, his wife of 51 years, after his return from Vietnam. His career in finance was distinguished. He worked for two years as a Senior Accountant for what is now Price Waterhouse Coopers in the Atlanta office, then as Secretary-Treasurer and CFO of an Atlanta real estate development company. Jerry was founder and majority owner of Colley & Kise, CPAs with offices in Stone Mountain, Tucker, and Duluth. A member of Delta Sigma Pi, national business fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, national honorary business society, and Beta Alpha Psi, national honorary accounting society, Jerry taught for many years as an adjunct instructor of accounting at DeKalb College (now GSU) and Emory University. Notably, in civic life, Jerry served as campaign manger for Andrew Young.



Jerry Colley (1944-2021)

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Past Presidents Jerry Colley and Dennis Kelly (From Page 3)

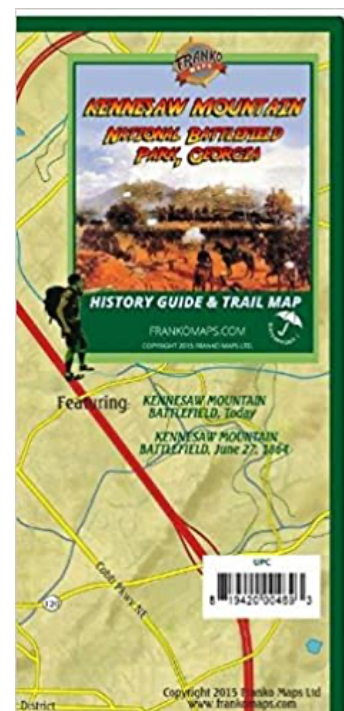
Jerry and Gloria enjoyed family bicycle rides with their two young sons, Michael and Mark. This led to a new area of endeavor. After years as head of Colley & Kise, Jerry arranged for an employee to purchase the firm and he became Executive Director of Bicycle Rides Across Georgia, an original and successful venture. As a consultant, Jerry helped others to set up similar programs. Jerry and Gloria lead bicycle tours all over the world, traveling with groups to many far-flung destinations, including Austria, France, and New Zealand. Jerry was also a passionate supporter of Veterans' causes. He volunteered often for the Georgia Veterans Day Parade.

A funeral Mass was offered at St. Brendan's Catholic Church in Cumming on February 25. Burial will take place at the Georgia National Cemetery, 1080 Scott Hudgens Drive, Canton, GA 30114 this Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. Donations in memory of Jerry may be made to: The Central Night Shelter at Central Presbyterian Church: 2107 N. Decatur Rd., Suite 479, Decatur GA 30033 or online <https://www.centralnightselter.org>; or to St. Brenden's Catholic Church Food Pantry, 4633 Shiloh Rd., Cumming, GA 30040. For this charity, add a note to the memo line: IHO Jerry Colley.

Dennis Kelly (1945-2021)

Past President Dennis Kelly's life ended in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, near Harper's Ferry, last month. The cause of death is unknown, there are no known survivors and no known commemorations have taken place.

Dennis' good friend historian Keith Bohannon of the University of West Georgia and colleagues from the National Park service are working to prepare an obituary with details of Dennis' exceptional life. Willie Ray Johnson, who was Dennis' colleague at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park and a longtime friend described Dennis as "one of the world's most unforgettable characters" and "a masterful researcher and lecturer. He was constantly reading and gathering information, revising his thought to contain more and more insight."

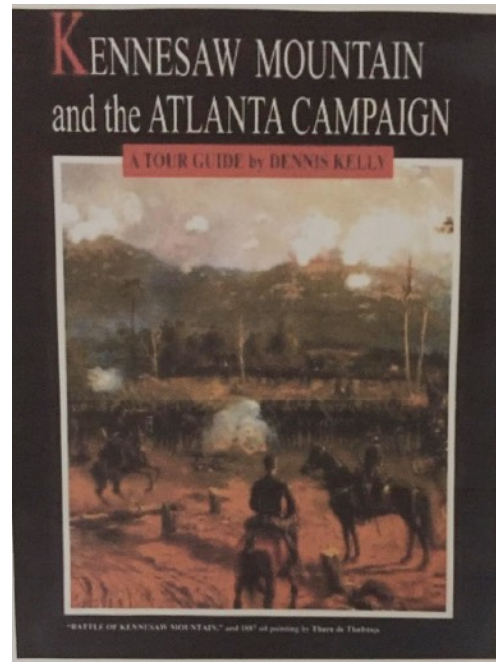


One of Dennis Kelly's NPS Publications.

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Past Presidents Jerry Colley and Dennis Kelly (From Page 4)

Raised in Philadelphia, Dennis was drafted after high school and joined the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. He was deployed to serve in the Dominican Republic in April of 1965. After completing this demanding assignment, Dennis returned to civilian life and earned a degree from Temple University. He then worked for the National Park Service at the Manassas and Stones River Battlefield Parks before joining the staff at Kennesaw. He remained at Kennesaw for over a decade before taking early retirement in 1995. Friends describe him as one who lived life on his own terms, sometimes quixotically. Of Irish descent, Dennis Patrick Kelly had a long love affair with Ireland. “When he was a ranger, he would save up his leave and spend time in Ireland. After he took early retirement, he lived there for some years on a boat. The problem was, he had no experience with boats,” said Willie Ray. After years in Ireland followed by a one-year tour of Europe, Dennis eventually returned to Philadelphia and became his mother’s primary caregiver until her death. He then moved to West Virginia, about 2012, Willie Ray estimated. A fine writer, Dennis published park publications and a set of maps that were sold for years at the Kennesaw visitor center. He also wrote for the old *Blue and Gray Magazine*. His intellect and dedication were remarkable “I never failed to learn something from him whenever we spoke.” remembered Willie Ray.



Dennis Kelly published articles, maps and this 62-page book.

Our Condolences

We extend condolences to the Colley family and to the friends of Dennis Kelly. We also extend sympathy to our President Carlton Mullis and his family. Carlton Mullis (1939-2021), Carlton’s father, died February 27. Donations may be made in Mr. Mullis’ honor to the Gideons International: <https://www.gideons.org/donate> or to the charity of your choice. We also extend our sympathy to Immediate Past President John Dietrichs and the Dietrichs family. John’s mother, Marilyn Altrock Dietrichs (1927-2021), died February 25.

Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours

As you all know by now, ACWRT activities are alive and well, and we have multiple tours scheduled for this Spring. Due to small group sizes, we must limit these tours to current ACWRT members.

Each tour will be COVID-careful and limited to 10 participants, who will provide their own transportation (no bus, sorry), bag lunch, and water, and will closely adhere to CDC guidelines for masking and social distancing. There will be no fee but we will offer links to websites for online donations to help local preservation efforts. We know you will be generous.

Each will take place no matter the weather. So please be prepared if you register. Barring an ice storm we will step off lively.

Charlie Crawford will lead our sold-out tour March 27, bringing to life the wonderful Ponder House essay by John Dietrichs from December's ACWRT *Battle Lines*. We look forward to this exciting kickoff to our 2021 tours. This tour is filled but members can reserve a space in case of cancellations:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour>

And whether or not you participate in this tour, please generously support preservation efforts by the Georgia Battlefields Association at this link:

<http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/donate.aspx>

On April 17 we will join the preeminent northwest Georgia historian Jim Ogden for a day at Chickamauga. His tour will focus on examination of the numerous monuments within the battlefield park, along with important historical artifacts and weapons in the Visitor's Center. Early registrations for the Chickamauga tour can be made online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour1>

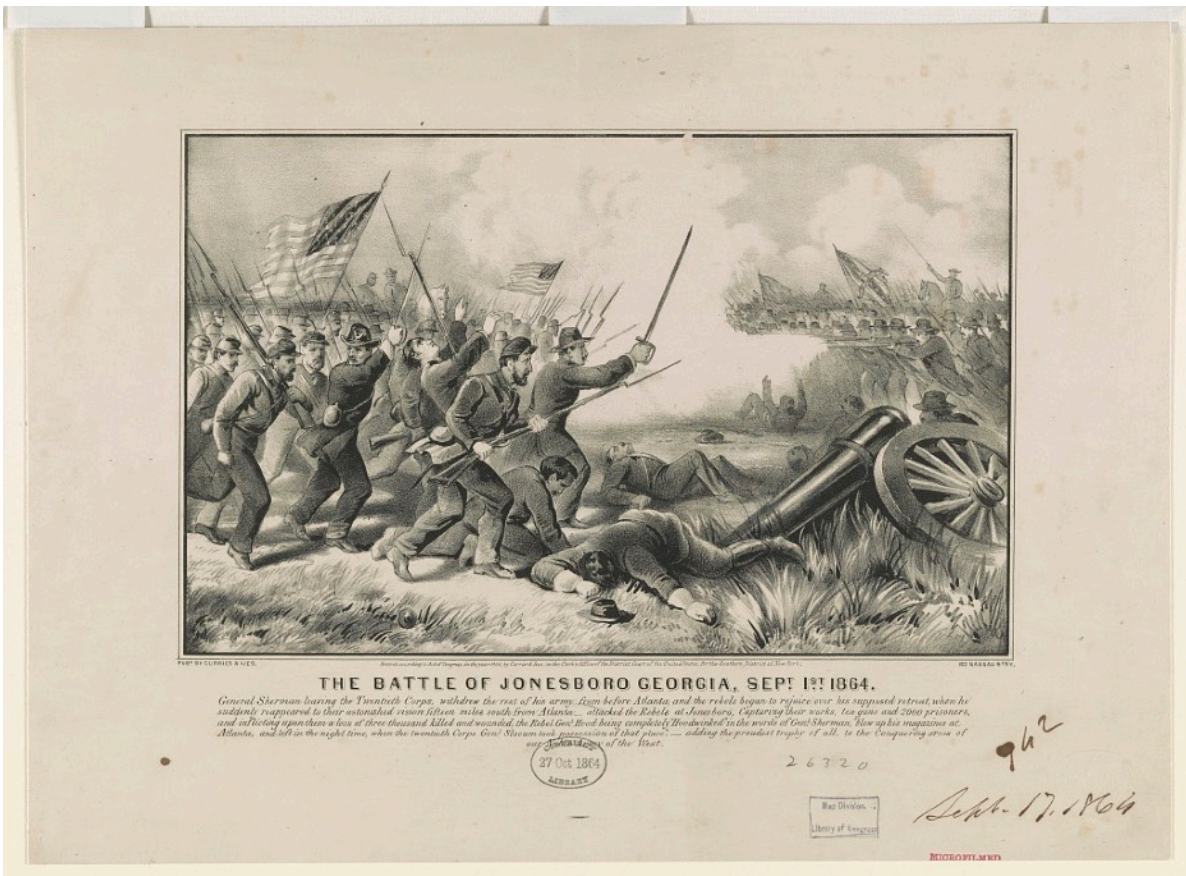
While there will be no fee for this tour, online contributions will support the National Park Partners Chickamauga-Chattanooga-Moccasin Bend. Contributions are always welcomed at this web address:

<https://nppcha.org/>



Chickamauga: Garrity's Alabama Battery overlooking Moccasin Bend, the Tennessee River, and Chattanooga. (National Park Service Photo)

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Currier and Ives Print, The Battle of Jonesboro Georgia, September 1, 1864. (Library of Congress)

Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours

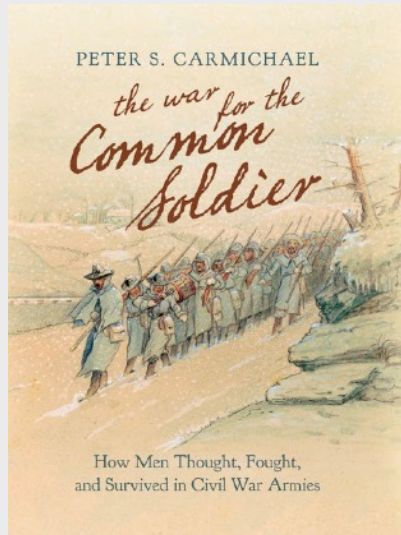
May 15 will find us in Jonesboro as we venture with Bill Dodd. Bill has spent decades studying this turning point of the Atlanta campaign and is a delightful resource for our Round Table.

June 12 we will be led by Sarah Kelehear, Interpretive Ranger at Sweetwater Creek State Park, to learn more about the New Manchester mill.

Our Big News Flash: Michael Shaffer has volunteered to lead our Kennesaw tour in the fall. Everyone knows Mike from his numerous tours, his leadership for the Cobb County Civil War Round Table, and his monthly column in the *Civil War News*. The date will be published later.

Look forward to more information about the Kennesaw tour this fall. We anticipate more members being vaccinated, thus improving our ability to mitigate health risks. By the time this reaches you, we hope all of you have at least your first vaccine. Jane and I enjoyed a spirited response (aka fever and malaise) to our second shot but we now feel safer. We are still wearing our masks, keeping distance, avoiding crowds, and regular hand washing. Please stay safe!

John Miller, Executive Board



CWRT Congress Talks

The Civil War Round Table Congress offers fascinating content via Zoom and YouTube. Free live programs, Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, require pre-registration at cwrtingress.org. (At the site, click left and then click Speaker Series). A number of the programs are also available to view on the organization's YouTube Channel (CWRT Congress - YouTube) where many videos have been posted. One of these is historian Peter S. Carmichael's presentation, based on his 2018 book *The War for the Common Soldier: How Men Thought, Fought and Survived in Civil War Armies*. Peter is the Robert C. Fluhrer Professor of Civil War Studies and Director of the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College and the author of five books. Peter's interest in the study of the Civil war began at the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table when he was 14. After earning a bachelors degree at Purdue, Peter completed his masters and a Ph.D. at Pennsylvania State University.

In April: 'Ghosts of Guerrilla Memory'

Historian Matthew C. Hulbert will speak in April of the phenomena and legends of bushwhackers, guerrillas sometimes attached to the Confederacy. Active in the borderlands of Missouri and Kansas during and after the war, their operations were often criminal; yet they became glorified characters of the Old West. Matthew's 2016 book *The Ghosts of Guerrilla Memory: How Civil War Bushwhackers Became Gunslingers in the American West* analyzes the cultural politics behind American memory of guerrilla warfare in literature and film, at reunions and on the stage. Matthew, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia in 2015 has written numerous books and articles covering his areas of interest: 19th Century America, the Civil War, antebellum slavery, the technology of warfare, violence in history and memory studies. Now Assistant Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College, his work has been recognized with many honors.

Atlanta Civil War Round Table

Officers and Executive Committee 2020-2021

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Mary-Elizabeth Ellard	First Vice President
Loran Crabtree	Second Vice President
Tim Whalen	Secretary/ Treasurer
John Dietrichs	Immediate Past President

At Large Executive Committee Second Year:

Bill Dodd; Tom Prior

At Large Executive Committee First Year:

John Miller; Robert Fugate