



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

PROMOTING THE SERIOUS STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

April Meeting

Join us via Zoom

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.

Technical Help

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

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Moving Past the Pandemic

President's Message: As we now have passed the one-year anniversary of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and of our



President Carlton Mullis: Photo
Gould Hagler

last in-person meeting, ongoing vaccinations offer hope of a return to "normal" and of the return of in-person meetings for the next campaign season. As those who came before us did 156 years ago in April 1865, we remember family and friends we have lost and look forward to once again seeing those we have missed. I am in between my first and second

vaccinations and am eager to spend time with those family and friends I have not been able to see over the last year.

We have only three meetings left this campaign season. Matthew Hulbert will offer a talk this month based on his book *How Civil War Bushwhackers Became Gunslingers in the American West*. I found the topic of how these "bushwhackers" were received by the "regular army" soldiers at post-war reunions to be particularly interesting.

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Tuesday evening's speaker is Historian Matthew C. Hulbert. 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. He is Assistant Professor of History at Hampden-Sydney College. His work has been recognized with many honors. (Photo: UGA Press)

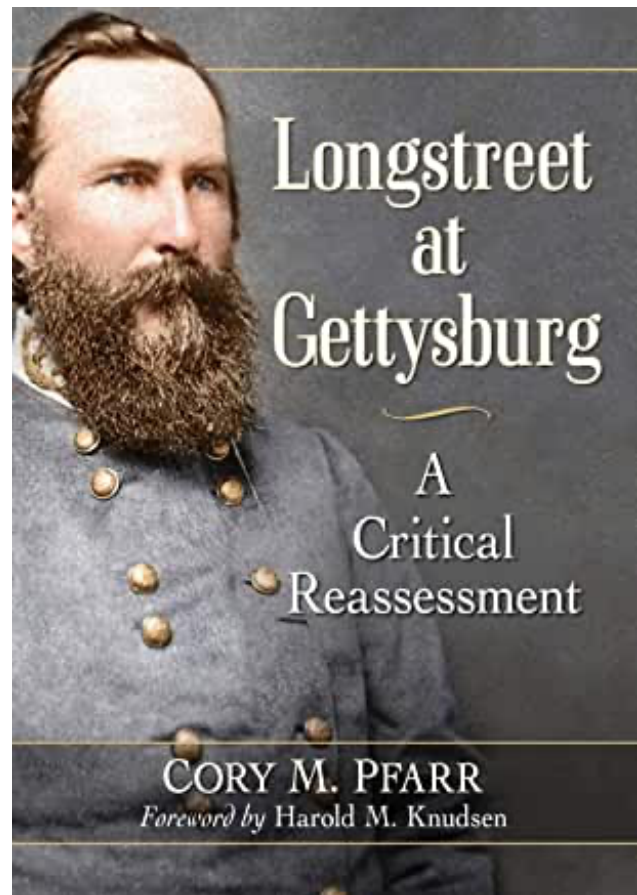
Moving Past the Pandemic (From Page 1)

Next month Cory Pfarr will deliver a program based on his book *General James Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment*, which won the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table Distinguished Book Award for the best book

published in 2019 on the Gettysburg campaign. I have also been able to reschedule 2020's Harwell Award winner, Hampton Newsome. He will finish out our year in June with a

talk on his book *The Fight For the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina January - May 1864*.

I hope that everyone will continue to stay safe and healthy so we can all celebrate the end of this pandemic and enjoy getting back together with family and friends.



Carlton Mullis
Atlanta CWRT President
2020-2021

From Our Chaplain: *Cares of the Last Twelve Months*

April 1863, Easter Sunday

What woes and care we have shouldered these last twelve months! Civil War soldiers often wrote of their woes and cares. This diary entry by a lieutenant in the 2nd Massachusetts reminds us that such woes only define the challenge. They do not relieve of us the duty. Ironically, hard marching may have left him silent that it was Easter Sunday.



WRITING HOME.

Union Soldier Writing Home: From John Davis Billings, *Hardtack and Coffee*, Vol I, Page 63. Library of Congress

"April 5th 1863

Sabbath. Felt dull and sleepy and slept a good deal during the day. Had opportunity to attend church in the village, about a mile from camp, but felt too tired to go. Had our first dress parade since leaving Newport News. Feel I must be more systematic in prayer and study of God's word would "I stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made me free." Have been worldly in mind the past week, feel it has come from neglect of prayer and reading of God's word. Have thought to excuse my neglect of these from the untoward circumstances of journeying. But feel that had my heart been right, "acknowledging God in all my ways,"

need not have grown worldly or forgetful of Him. Must strive to cultivate more of that spirit which will be lifting up the heart to God in prayer amid the turmoil of earth's cares and labors, and feel His presence to be ever about me."

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and HE shall direct thy paths.

Proverbs 3: 5-6, Authorized King James Version

Chaplain, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard

Davis' *Bell Hood* Wins 2021 Harwell Book Award

Last year, due to the pandemic, this year's annual Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award was expected to be suspended. It is therefore especially exciting that the Harwell Book Award Committee forged ahead and that Atlanta author and historian Stephen Davis has been recognized with the 2021 award for the second in his two-book series on the generalship of John Bell Hood, *Into Tennessee and Failure: John Bell Hood*. Before the two books evaluating Hood, Steve authored another five on the Atlanta campaign. A native Atlantan and Civil War buff since 4th grade, Steve obtained a bachelor's degree from Emory University before heading to Chapel Hill and earning a masters degree from the University of North Carolina. He returned to Emory for his Ph.D. At Emory, he studied under historian Dr. Bell Irvin Wiley, who was president of the Atlanta Round Table from 1959-1960 and influential to us for many, many years. A long-time friend of the Atlanta Round Table, Steve has often been our speaker.



Past President Gordon Jones with Steve Davis at the Round Table's February 2017 meeting. Steve delivered the talk: 'Neither Great nor Genius: General John Bell Hood in 1864.'

In January he offered a Zoom talk based on the first in his Bell Hood duo, *Texas Brigadier to the Fall of Atlanta: John Bell Hood*. Steve is a prolific author, with hundreds of articles and book reviews for the *Civil War Times*, the *Georgia Historical Quarterly* and many other publications. From 1985 to 2006, he served as Book Review Editor for *Blue & Gray Magazine*. Both books on Hood are of equal and exceptional quality according to Gary Barnes, Chairman of the Harwell Committee. Harwell Award Committee Member Robert Fugate's video and print reviews of *Texas Brigadier to the Fall of Atlanta* can be found on our website: www.atlantacwrt.org. The print version appeared in the December 2020 *Battle Lines*, Pages 18-20 (See the newsletter archives). Our webmaster Gould Hagler also has a detailed announcement of the 2021 award on our website. Gould wrote a review of *Into Tennessee and Failure* for this February's edition of *Civil War News*. Steve will offer a program based on *Into Tennessee and Failure* and accept the Harwell Award on November 9.

The Harwell Book Award has been presented annually since 1989 in honor of Richard Barksdale Harwell, first president of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table and a renowned Civil War historian and author. The Harwell Award is nationally known as a mark of excellence. It honors the best Civil War book published in the preceding calendar year.

Honorable Mentions from the Harwell Committee

Though 2020 was a year that many of us will remember for heartache and national conflict, it brought a satisfying wealth of fine Civil War books. “The Harwell Book Award Committee has never had so many award quality books to consider,” said Committee Chairman Gary Barnes. Gary provided this list of 2020 books deserving honorable mention with his thoughts:

Kenneth Noe: *The Howling Storm : Weather, Climate and the American Civil War*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. LSU Press. October 7, 2020. “A groundbreaking book dealing with the effects of weather on our Civil War. Many believe this tome will be a valuable reference work for years to come.”

Rachel Lance: *In The Waves : My Quest to Solve the Mystery of a Civil War Submarine*. New York, NY. Dutton. April 7, 2020. “Ms. Lance may have found why the Hunley Sunk and how the crew died.”

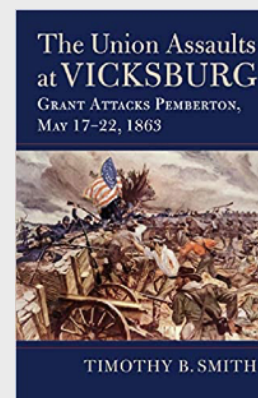
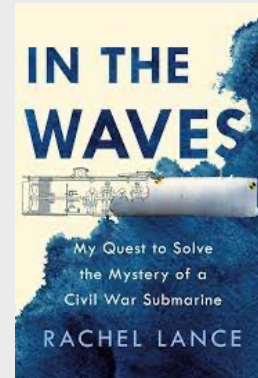
Gary W. Gallagher: *The Enduring Civil War : Reflections on the Great American Crisis*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana. LSU Press. September 2020. “Seventy-three essays by one of the great Civil War historians. You probably will not agree with Dr. Gallagher on every subject but the essays will make you think.”

Timothy Smith: *The Union Assaults at Vicksburg : Grant Attacks Pemberton May 17- 22 1863*. Lawrence, Kansas. University of Kansas Press. January 2020. “This book cements Dr. Smith's reputation as one of the top Western Theatre historians.”

Round Table Reviews: Robert Fugate's video reviews of *Texas Brigadier to the Fall of Atlanta* and *The Union Assaults at Vicksburg* can be found on our website: www.atlantacwrt.org. The print versions appeared in *Battle Lines* in December, Pages 18-20, and February, Pages 7-10. John Miller's review of *In the Waves* appeared in January's *Battle Lines*, Pages 7-8. More reviews are in the works, coming soon is Past President David Beale's review of the work of Donald Frazier, author of 2020's *Tempest Over Texas: The Fall and Winter Campaigns of 1863-1864*, a title the committee really liked.

Member Reviews

See: www.atlantacwrt.org



Passages: *Former ACWRT President Art Carey*

This Easter, April 4, retired Col. Art Carey died. Art was a longtime Round Table Member. He joined in 1996 and served as Round Table President for the 2013-2014 Campaign Year. His family provided this online obituary: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/arthur-carey-obituary?pid=198257676> A Funeral Mass was offered last week. Internment services at the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton are scheduled for this Thursday, April 15, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Art was originally from New Jersey and was raised in and remained a member of the Roman Catholic Church. As the obituary notes, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the late 1950s and served 30 years in the Army. As you might imagine, he was stationed at several places around the U.S. and overseas, including Vietnam.



Art Carey: ACWRT President, 2013-2014

Art married Alice in 1960, and together they raised a son and two daughters. Art said more than once that he couldn't have had a more supportive wife, as Alice endured the frequent moves of a military family. Alice died in December 2011.

Art's secondary Military Occupational Specialty was finance, and after the Army, he worked for the state of Georgia in the motor fuels tax division until retiring from that position in 2000.

Art was always ready to help, whether for Catholic charity work or the public service efforts of the Military Officers Association of America, where he also served as president of the Atlanta chapter. Art served as both treasurer and secretary of Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) 1999-2004 and was a great help to me when I became GBA president in 2002. He managed the books well but also gave sound advice on any topic. Even after Art left the GBA treasurer position to have more time for Catholic mission work, I continued to seek his counsel.

Finally, I'm sure Art answered (correctly) more Round Table trivia questions than any other individual.

Charlie Crawford, Atlanta Civil War Round Table Trivia Master

Passages: *Shirley and Carl Espy, Bill Erquitt*

A service for Shirley Espy, who for many years graced our Round Table with her warm smile, was held in her memory on the one-year anniversary of her death on April 3 at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. The celebration of life can still be viewed here: <https://livestream.com/dunwoodyumc/events/9609221> This obituary was posted at the time of her death last year: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/sandy-springs-ga/shirley-espy-9110328> A Chicago native, Shirley joined the Round Table in 2012. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Shirley loved music and played piano. Her husband Carl Espy Jr. preceded her in death January 28, 2020. Carl was a member of the World War II Round Table, the Sons of the American Revolution and other historical societies. Carl served the U.S. Army in Germany, Korea and Vietnam before retiring at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1972. His obituary is posted here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=carl-espy&pid=195251922&fhid=5305> Memorial Contributions may be made in memory of Shirley to Dunwoody United Methodist Church. A service for Carl was held at the Dunwoody United Methodist Church in February of last year. A procession to the Georgia National Cemetery in Canton followed. Carl was interred there.



Shirley Espy: Round Table Member

Bill Erquitt, Round Table President for the 1993-1994 Campaign Year and a member since 1965, died June 11, 2020. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and was interred at the Georgia National Cemetery on Jun 22, 2020. His obituary is posted here: <https://www.mcdonaldandson.com/obituary/Emil-Erquitt>

Condolences: *Donald and Marilyn Dietrichs*

We extend condolences to Past President John Dietrichs, his wife Carol and their family. John's father Donald Dietrichs died March 16, soon after the death of his wife, John's mother, Marilyn. Mr. Dietrich's obituary is here: <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/atlanta/obituary.aspx?n=donald-dietrichs&pid=198112305> A World War II veteran, Donald graduated in 1947 from the Emory School of Business. He had a long career with the Life Insurance Company of Georgia. Donald and Marilyn raised three sons. There will be a memorial service later. Donations in memory of Mr. Dietrichs, may be offered to the First Church of Christ Scientist, at 150 15th Street, NE, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours



Tour leader Charlie Crawford and Chad Carlson on the Tech Campus where Atlanta's forts and defenses stood in 1864.

Atlanta Civil War Round Table's 2021 Resurgens tour season kicked off in glorious style last month and we have more 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 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.

April 17 we will join the preeminent northwest Georgia historian Jim Ogden for a day at Chickamauga. His tour will focus on the numerous monuments within the battlefield park, along with important historical artifacts and weapons in the Visitor's Center. Registrations for the Chickamauga tour are full but standby reservations 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, and please look for the donation button for "Jewell Memorial Fund for Landscape and Monument Restoration":

<https://nppcha.org/>

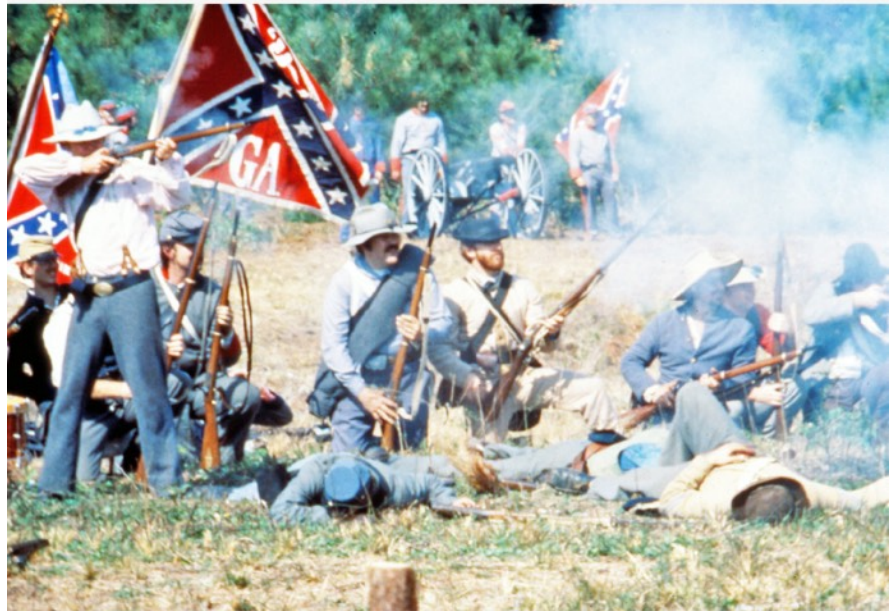
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Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours (From Page 9)

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.

Michael Shaffer has volunteered to lead our Kennesaw tour in the Fall and we are researching ways to continue our "no fee" policy. The date will be published later.



Every second weekend in October, A Battle of Jonesboro reenactment is usually held at Stately Oaks Plantation. (Photo: Clayton County Convention and Visitor's Bureau)

Saturday March 27 ACWRT kicked off its 2021 Tour Season with Charlie Crawford as we toured sites of Confederate forts and Atlanta defenses along what is now the southern boundary of Georgia Tech.

We met under the entrance to the Fox Theatre and examined Charlie's excellent handouts, which include several versions of a map of these lines. Then we roughly paralleled North Avenue as we walked westward past the Varsity and the Tech Administration Building, then past the Student Center to end at the College of Liberal Arts as we viewed locations of Barnard's famous photographs of Confederate lines at the Ponder House (please reference John Dietrichs' essay on the Ponder House from the December 2021 *Battle Lines*) and other fortifications around the northwest perimeter of Atlanta's 1864 defenses. Photos are displayed here on dropbox:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sc/ho4n0frmtyzycf/AADf6-wpXW2anjJmfjo1rDaHa>

Also take note of our new activities page on the website: <http://atlantacwrt.org/activities.htm>

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Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours (From Page 9)



Tour leader Charlie Crawford shares the intricate handouts he prepared as the tour group meets at the Fox.

Our group included several **ACWRT Past Presidents** as well as local educators. Past President Gould Hagler remarked, "This was a great battlefield tour. There is still a lot to see, even if the battlefield was paved over many years ago. With Charlie as a guide, by walking over the terrain and studying the maps and photos, we learned a lot about the works protecting Atlanta, where they were located and why, how they were made and how they were used."

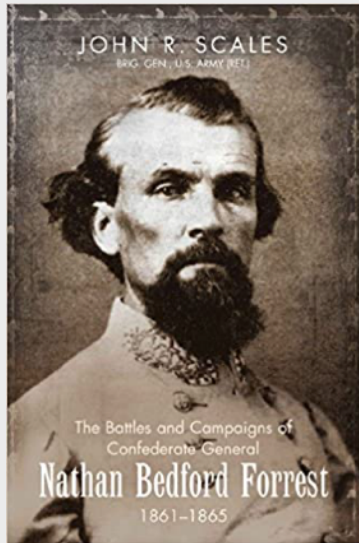


Reviewing Charlie's Handouts at the Fox.

Atlanta natives Ginny Wolf and Tina Peavy were also impressed with Charlie Crawford's breadth of knowledge of the area, having begun his studies of the area as a Tech student in the days of Bobby Dodd. They added, "We really appreciated the maps and photos in the handouts."

Although our small group suffered greatly from the pollen of this beautiful Atlanta spring, we feel re-energized and we are looking forward to our next adventures. The ACWRT has returned in force!

John Miller, Atlanta Civil War Round Table At Large Executive Committee



Did Forrest Make a Difference?

Yes he did, though he could not change the outcome of the war, concludes John R. Scales in a recent Zoom presentation for the Civil War Round Table Congress. The talk, now available for viewing on YouTube, is based on John's 2017 book *The Battles and Campaigns of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest, 1861-1865*. John is a retired Special Forces Brigadier General with more than three decades of service, including combat tours in Vietnam and Afghanistan. He is also author of the 2006 book *Sherman Invades Georgia*. His talk on Forrest is concise and well-illustrated.

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 cwrctcongress.org. (At the site, click left and then click Speaker Series). A number of the programs, like John's talk, are also available to view on the organization's YouTube Channel (CWRT Congress - YouTube) where many videos have been posted.

Forrest, Civil War Maryland

Next Week, **Wednesday, April 21** at 7p.m., EST, Samuel Mitcham Jr., author of 2016's *Bust Hell Wide Open: The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest* will join Bart Talbert, author of the 1997 book *Maryland: The South's First Casualty*, for a Zoom webinar hosted by the Abbeville Institute, a group of scholars dedicated to elucidating the history of the American South. Forrest is one of the most vilified men of all time—but does he deserve this? And Maryland has consistently been viewed as a border state sympathetic to the Union during the Civil War—but was this true? The state song from the Civil War era has just been cancelled. Samuel holds a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Tennessee and has written over 40 books of military history. Bart holds a Ph.D in American History from the University of Alabama. For further information, inquire at www.abbevilleinstitute.org

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