



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

PROMOTING THE SERIOUS STUDY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR



May Meeting

Join us via Zoom

Tuesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

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Above: Photo by John Miller

Longstreet and Gettysburg

Tuesday's program will offer a new look at the performance of Lieutenant General James Longstreet at Gettysburg. Longstreet has long been scapegoated for Confederate failures through the three-day battle. Our

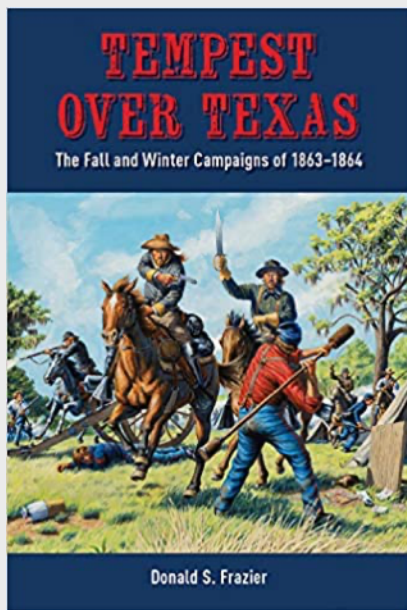


At the Pitzer Woods, Gettysburg National Military Park:
Equestrian statue of General Longstreet on his horse Hero.
(Photo From the National Register of Historic Places)

speaker Cory Pfarr, author of the 2019 book *General James Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment*, will present a view of Longstreet that counters the old arguments blaming the General for so much of what went wrong for the Confederacy at Gettysburg. Character assassination by his contemporaries after the war was perpetuated by historians afterwards. "For years historians have been looking at the history books of the past. The mistakes of so many have simply been repeated,

observed Richard Pilcher, President of The Longstreet Society in Gainesville. "Cory's book is based on original research."

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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 Harwell Award Committee admired.

Longstreet, Gettysburg (From Page 1)

Richard added: "Besides being a beautifully researched book, it's a compelling read," Deeply esteemed by the Longstreet society, Cory was chosen to be the the keynote speaker for the Society's 25th Anniversary celebration in October of 2019. For the society's seminar in October of this year, Cory will take participants on a tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield, setting the record straight with what he learned looking at the original material. Longstreet at Gettysburg won the Gettysburg Civil War Round Table Distinguished Book Award for the best book published in 2019 on the Gettysburg campaign.



Cory Pfarr at a book signing.

Cory works for the Department of Defense and is author of 2014's "John Quincy Adams's Republicanism: A Thousand Obstacles Apparently Stand Before Us," published by the Massachusetts Historical Review Vol. 16 (2004). An associate editor and writer for *North & South Magazine*, Cory is a member of the Society for History in the Federal Government. He has also written for *Gettysburg Magazine*. He lives with his wife and three children in Fallston, Maryland.

From Our Chaplain: *A Song for Mother's Day*

Fearful and dying soldiers cry for their mothers. So Civil War diaries and memoirs tell us. Songwriter George

Frederick Root (1820 - 1895) gave voice to this cry in his song, "Just Before the Battle, Mother." Root owed much of his fame to the American Civil War. Songs such as "The Battle Cry of Freedom" and "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!" (whose tune was later adapted for "Jesus Loves the Little Children") quickly became favorites in the Union, especially among Federal troops, along with over thirty more of his wartime works.

Originally from Massachusetts, Root spent most of his career in Chicago. A testament to his professional stature

during his lifetime is the fact that Root often collaborated with 19th century hymn writer par excellence, Fanny Crosby. In 1970, he was inducted into the American Song Writers Hall of Fame.

Here are excerpts from his song, "**Just Before the Battle, Mother:**"

Just before the battle,
Mother,
I am thinking most of
you/ While upon the fields
we're watching,
With the enemy in view.

Comrades, brave, are round
me lying
Filled with thoughts of home
and God
For well they know that on
the morrow
Some will sleep beneath the
sod.

Hark, I hear the bugles
sounding
'Tis the signal for the fight.
Now may God protect us,
Mother,
As he ever does the right.

Farewell, Mother, you may never
Press me to your heart again,
But, oh, you'll not forget me, Mother,
If I'm numbered with the slain.

Chaplain, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard



This statue of a Mother and Son was dedicated in 2012 at Brown Park in Marietta. It stands outside the Confederate Cemetery. (Photo Gould Hagler)

Harwell Committee: *Books to Watch, June Speaker*

As summer approaches, ACWRT's Harwell Book Award Committee is considering a slate of new books for next year's award. Chairman Gary Barnes has assembled an initial list of books that look promising. Gary checks with authors, historians, park rangers and publishers for potential award winners. He also encourages any round table member to contact him (tapdance3@aol.com) if they know of a book they believe is worthy of consideration. Books for the 2022 award must be published in 2021.

So far, Gary has identified four promising books. The Matteson book was published in February. The others are available for pre-order:

Allen C. Guelzo: ***Robert E. Lee : A Life***. New York, NY. Knopf. September 28, 2021. "It will be interesting to see how the author of the 2014 Harwell winner for ***Gettysburg: The Last Invasion*** handles Lee's story for our current, turbulent times."

Kent Masterson Brown: ***Meade At Gettysburg: A Study in Command***, Chapel Hill, NC, The University of North Carolina Press. June 7, 2021. "It has been 16 years since Brown's excellent ***Retreat from Gettysburg*** was released. I have been told that many Gettysburg guides are excited about Mr. Brown's latest effort."

John Matteson : ***A Worse Place Than Hell : How The Civil War Battle Of Fredericksburg Changed A Nation***, New York, NY. W. W. Norton & Company, February 9, 2021. "The Pulitzer Prize winning author examines how the battle influenced many influential Americans including Oliver Wendell Holmes , Walt Whitman , John Pelham and Louisa May Alcott."

Timothy B. Smith : ***The Siege Of Vicksburg : Climax Of The Campaign To Open The Mississippi River May 23 - July 4 1863***. Lawrence, KS. University Press of Kansas. June 5, 2021. "Tim Smith, the 2015 Harwell recipient for ***Shiloh Conquer or Perish***, continues his study of the Vicksburg Campaign."

Harwell Book Award Committee Chairman, Gary Barnes

2020 Harwell Winner to Speak June 6

Hampton Newsome, rescheduled last year due to the pandemic, will be our speaker next month. Hampton, an attorney and author, won 2020's Harwell Award for his ***The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864***. At the time Harwell Chair Gary Barnes observed: "Many Civil War buffs believe the only important fights and occurrences during the the last year of the War took place in Virginia. Newsom brings North Carolina's story into the light and tells how North Carolina military events affected social transformations and politics in the state. Fight for the Old North State is deeply researched, carefully noted and an enjoyable read."



Chickamauga Monuments Tour

Some of the bloodiest engagements of the Civil War were fought on the rolling land that stretches out from Georgia's Chickamauga creek. The battlefield, a vital part of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, was preserved by an act of Congress in 1890. Jim Ogden, Park Historian of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park,



Jim Ogden explains that the Kentucky state monument commemorates both the Union and Confederate men who fought for this border state, which remained neutral through the Civil War. (Photo John Miller)

introduced us to some of the park's monuments during our April ACWRT tour. Luminous sunlight lit the intricately curated statues and markers for our tour—in poignant contrast to the dusty, unseasonably frigid and foggy conditions that plagued the battle from September 18 to 20 of 1863. “Chickamauga is the largest of national military parks with boundaries, northernmost to southernmost, comprising more than 30 miles of airline distance,” said Ogden as he set out to introduce us to a few of the park's 1,004 monuments. Though the park was created by an act of Congress at the urging of Union veterans, the monuments were not funded nationally but by the states of the Union and the former Confederacy to commemorate the men who fought the battle that left over 4,000 dead. At the Kentucky state monument, Jim explained that the park intentionally commemorated both sides. Chickamauga was a

decisive victory for the Confederacy while the battles for Chattanooga from November 23-25, 1863 were a Union victory. The park, dedicated in 1895, represents both victories.

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Chickamauga Tour (From Page 5)

When our young nation was beginning to claim a place on the world stage in the 1870s and 1880s, much was made of a “purposeful show of reconciliation,” said Jim. There was a need for England, France, Spain and Germany—the European powers—to see the United States as one country, one power, so there was a focus on honoring the common soldiers of



both sides at the Chickamauga-Chattanooga park. A joint dedication of the Kentucky monument with surviving veterans of both the Union and the Confederacy of the state took place in 1911. Kentucky was careful not to glorify one side over the other. The figure of Bellona, the Roman goddess of war, was chosen to top the statue rather than a soldier representing either side. In bas relief, emblems entwining the flags of both the Union and the Confederacy are featured.

Georgia’s monument was dedicated in 1899. Most of the former Confederate states were impoverished by the war and trailed behind in building monuments. Some southern states, Mississippi for instance, never erected Chickamauga monuments. But there are many cast iron tablets on the battlefield that show the location of each of the units during the battle.

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Georgia’s 86-foot monument (Left and Above) was dedicated May 4, 1899, four years after the park dedication. Jim presented vintage photos of its history at the site. (Photos: John Miller)

Chickamauga Tour (From Page 6)

Combat veterans were instrumental in mapping out the placement of the monuments and tablets. They returned to delineate their positions and movements as the park was designed. Each monument front faces the direction from which each particular unit faced its enemy. Jim's uncanny mastery of this subject matter was first on display when we stopped at the 10th



Above: Jim Ogden stands before an Ohio Monument in need of restoration. Left: An Indiana monument marks the spot where combatant Peter Kellenburger heard the first shots of the battle. (Photos: John Miller)



Regiment Indiana Infantry monument. To great effect, Jim recited from memory a description of the opening shots of the battle from the diary of Indiana infantryman Peter Kellenburger. Further, Jim detailed the decision to build the monument of Indiana limestone, a controversial choice at the time as granite is a more durable material. He then described the historic use of Indiana limestone for military structures, notably for the stone facade of the Pentagon, built in the 1940s. With a detailed map and antique photos, Jim deftly chronicled the origin story of each featured monument. Many of the images that emerged from Chickamauga remain in military symbolism. Union General George Henry Thomas, deemed “the Rock of Chickamauga,” was a source of the acorn imagery found on many of the Ohio

monuments at the park. His 14th Army Corps was said to stand “like an oak tree” at the conclusion of the battle. The acorn remains a symbol of the contemporary 14th U.S. Army Corps.

Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park was the first park of its kind. The Shiloh, Gettysburg and Vicksburg Parks followed. Originally maintained by the national War Department, the park was used to train thousands for service in the Spanish American War, World War I and World War II. Now there are four designations for the 25 battle sites maintained by the federal government. Chickamauga-Chattanooga is a National Military Park. The other designations are National Battlefield, National Battlefield Park and National Battlefield Site.

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Bellona, the Roman goddess of war, watches over the battlefield near the visitor center and museum. (Photo John Miller)

Chickamauga Tour: The Park's Growing Mission

Transferred from the War Department to the National Park Service in 1933, Chickamauga-Chattanooga's mission has grown beyond commemoration to archaeology. Its regions now extend from Chickamauga Battlefield in Georgia to Tennessee's Missionary Ridge, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield and Point Park and—added in 2003—the Moccasin Bend Archaeological District. We left Chickamauga with a sense of awe, appreciating the significance of the battlefield and hoping to return to search for more of the stories and insights that Jim Ogden taught us to see in the monuments.

Carol Willey



Monuments in the distance commemorate the men who fought those frigid days in September 1963. (Photo John Miller)

New Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours

Atlanta Civil War Round Table's 2021 exciting **Resurgens tour season** is preparing for a third tour. **May 15** will find us in Jonesboro as we venture forth with Bill Dodd.

Bill has spent decades studying this turning point of the Atlanta campaign and is a delightful resource for our Round Table. We will commence at 10 a.m. just west of downtown Jonesboro where the Confederates occupied their highest ground as the major action began. We will examine additional sites in downtown Jonesboro including the Confederate cemetery, and we hope to be able to tour the Warren House, which served as both a Union and Confederate field hospital. Bill will provide copies of his work on Lovejoy's Station and Jonesboro.



The Battle of Jonesboro: Currier and Ives

Registrations for the Jonesborough Battlefield tour can be made online here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour2>

While there will be no fee for this tour, online contributions will support the Georgia Battlefields Association. Contributions are always welcomed at this web address:

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

While we are limiting registrations, as this tour fills we encourage others to register in Standby slots. We have seen some cancellations and we welcome standby registrants to join us as space becomes available.

Our **June 12** tour will be led by Sarah Kelehear, Interpretive Ranger at Sweetwater Creek State Park. We will learn about the New Manchester Mill, burned by Union Forces during the Georgia campaign in July of 1864. Signup for this tour will be distributed soon so please be watching for it. It will fill quickly.



New Manchester Mill Ruins at Sweetwater Creek

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 and details will be published later.

John Miller, ACWRT At Large Executive Committee

Passages: Longtime Member Bob Rivers

Atlanta native and life-long metro area resident, Robert “Bob” Rivers, a member of the ACWRT for over 30 years, died April 29. The only child of Robert Lee Rivers and Evelyn Graves, Bob attended Emory University for two years after graduating from Brown High School. At Emory he was a member of the Chi Phi Fraternity. He transferred to the University of Kentucky where he obtained a bachelor of science degree in 1956. After receiving his commission through the Air Force ROTC, Bob served on Active Duty as a navigator from 1956-1959. After five years with Shell Oil Company, Bob worked in the property and casualty insurance business where he specialized in underwriting and marketing until his retirement in 1998. A dedicated Southern Baptist, Bob served as a deacon and choir member at College Park First Baptist in the 1960s. After moving to Woodstock, he was a member of Woodstock First Baptist. He met Elaine Puckett Rivers in 1977. They were married for 42 years and they enjoyed traveling together to Europe and throughout the United States. Bob also enjoyed a life-long passion for baseball, cheering the Atlanta Crackers in childhood and later The Atlanta Braves.



Bob Rivers: 1934-2021

A Jamestown descendant, Bob loved history and cherished his Southern heritage. He joined our Round Table in 1990. Elaine joined soon afterwards and they were faithful members. Bob was a longtime member and a past Commander of John B. Gordon Camp of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and a board member of The Atlanta World War II Round Table. Bob is survived by his widow Elaine, son Steven and wife Angela of Merritt Island, FL; son Mark and wife Kristen of Los Angeles, CA and Katherine Hoffer, stepdaughter. He is also survived by thirteen grand children.

The memorial service will be held at Lakeside Funeral Home 121 Claremore Dr. Woodstock, GA 30188 at 3 p.m. The family will receive friends there at 2 p.m.

Chickamauga Events, Information

The Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center is open from 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Sunday. There are fascinating exhibits with relics from the battle, a film and a bookstore. Information for



Hardtack ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov))

planning a visit is available on the park website: <https://www.nps.gov/chch/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm>. Or call during park hours: Chickamauga Visitor Center at 706-866-9241;

Lookout Mountain Visitor Center at 423-821-7786. On Saturday, May 22, at 2 pm, the park is hosting a virtual

program on the food of Civil War soldiers, followed by a presentation looking at our nation's adoption of mass food production to contend with a growing population. This program will be accessible on the park's Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/chickamauganps) and YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/chchnps).

Atlanta Civil War Round Table

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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



Georgia Monument at Gettysburg ([nps.gov](https://www.nps.gov))
Dedicated in 1961 for the Civil War Centennial.

Longstreet-Gettysburg Seminar

The Gettysburg Battlefield, like Chickamauga in Georgia, is a National Military Park, the third created at the end of the 19th Century. The battlefield was transferred to federal control in 1895. It became part of the War Department in 1896 and was transferred to the National Park Service in 1933. The Longstreet Society is planning a trip to tour the battlefield with Cory Pfarr this October. The society and museum in Gainesville (827 Maple Street, Gainesville, GA 30501) is open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and welcomes inquiries at 770-539-9005. Also see <http://www.longstreetsociety.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/TheLongstreetSociety>.