



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

A non-profit 501(c) (3), dedicated to Promoting the Serious Study of the American Civil War

June Meeting

Tuesday, June 14

5:30- 6:45 p.m. Cocktails

6:45 p.m. Dinner

Reservations Required

Register online at
www.atlantacwrt.org

or mail a check (\$50 per ticket)
to Tim Whalen:
P.O. Box 2355
Griffin, GA 30224
Reservations must be made by
8 p.m. Thursday, June 9

Meeting Location

Capital City Club-Downtown
7 John Portman Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 523-8221

** The Cash Bar is now credit and
debit card only. CCC will no
longer accept cash at the bar.*

Menu

Salad;
Entrée: Chicken Breast;
Dessert.

Jackson, Early in the Valley

To explain that Gary Gallagher is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia just doesn't fully convey his

stature. What can one say of one of the world's preeminent Civil War scholars? Come cap off our year next Tuesday with this engaging historian. The campaigns waged in the Shenandoah Valley by Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson and Jubal A. Early have inspired



dramatically different sets of images. Popular perceptions of the two Valley campaigns remain highly favorable to Jackson and more critical of Early. The ultimate results of the operations are beyond debate--Jackson emerged victorious and Early did not. This lecture will examine available resources, quality of Federal opponents, tactical efficiency, and the degree to which each man accomplished his strategic goals to assess how Early's effort stands up against Jackson's. Gary is the author or editor of more than forty books, including *The Confederate War*, 1997, *The Union War*, 2011, *The American War: A History of the Civil War Era*, co-authored with Joan Waugh, 2015; revised edition 2019, and *The Enduring Civil War: Reflections on the Great American Crisis*, 2020.



President, Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard.
(Photo: Gould Hagler)

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“The membership itself deserves great thanks for braving traffic, paying dues, answering surveys, offering constructive suggestions, and for just showing up. My sincere thanks to all.”
Mary-Elizabeth Ellard

Silent Auction: Troiani J.E.B. Stuart

The Round Table is offering another beautifully framed Don Troiani print for silent auction. The winning bidder will claim the print at our Tuesday, June 14 meeting. At the beginning of this 2021-2022 Campaign Year, an anonymous

benefactor donated a series of Troiani depictions of Civil War subjects as a fundraiser for our 501(c)(3) organization. This is our final Troiani print, “Major General J.E.B. Stuart of the Army of Northern Virginia,



1863.” A traditional academic, realist painter, Don is well known for his extremely accurate historical and military paintings. Like all of Don’s works, this portrait is meticulously researched. The print measures 23 by 18 inches, is signed, numbered and presented in a beautiful double-mat. Please send your bid by e-mail to Treasurer Tim Whalen at whalen315@aol.com. Bids for this print will be taken by Tim through noon on June 14. The proceeds will go into our Round Table coffers. We greatly appreciate this gift from our generous benefactor. At our June meeting, the auctioned print will be on display at the check-in table at the Capitol City Club with the winners’ name attached.

Reflecting on the Year: Many Thanks, Challenges

We are about to turn the corner from one campaign year to the next. Such turning points offer a chance to recall the past and reflect on the future.

So many people have contributed to the ACWRT's successful return to face-to-face meetings. The staff at the Capital City Club have shown exceptional hospitality, as always. The board and other volunteers have supported and furthered the ACWRT's work in so many ways. What would we do without Tim Whalen to handle reservations and money or Carol Willey to keep us connected and informed? John Ottley has served as our host and contact person with the CCC. Gould Hagler faithfully photographs each meeting and provides us with our on-line presence through the website and Facebook page. The hard work of Gary Barnes, chairman of the Harwell Committee, and its members Brian Wills, Bob Fugate, Terry Kingery and David Beale make our annual Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award possible. The prestigious Harwell is recognized as a gold standard for Civil War books and continues to make us one of the premier Civil War Round Tables in America. Sy Goodman and Laura McCarty have worked behind the scenes to prepare a wonderful symposium this July featuring some of our own "in-house experts" as speakers to share our passion with others and to attract new members. The membership itself deserves great thanks for braving traffic, paying dues, answering surveys, offering constructive suggestions, and for just showing up. My sincere thanks to all.

Special thanks to four volunteers who will be stepping back from their duties at the end of this year. As board member and tour coordinator, John Miller has happily marched us all around Metro Atlanta. Our Trivia Master, Charlie Crawford, stumped us all... again. Charlie also led one of our tours. Bill Dodd, who is stepping back but not out from his activities on the board for our approaching campaign season, led the exceptional Jonesboro battlefield tour. Who could not be proud of our youngest member, Matthew Baez, our faithful chaplain this year? Thank you, all.



At our February meeting speaker Steve Woodworth receives a gift from President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard. (Photo: Gould Hagler)

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Many Thanks and Many Challenges (From Page 3)

Thanks, too, to those who have agreed to serve next year. You represent our future. That future approaches us hand in hand with significant challenges with which you and all our members must grapple. Where will we meet after June 2024? Are supper and the venue more important than affordability? Must every meeting offer supper or require coat and tie (or for many of us, skirts and heels)? What responsibility do we bear to those who passed the torch to us to do more than just consume scholarly knowledge, but to share that knowledge, and to draw those with nascent interest into more mature and scholarly exploration? Challenges, yes, but opportunities, too.

As we address these opportunities, we must remind ourselves foremost, “What is our mission?” Look at your certificate of membership. Read it there. Our original by-laws state, “The purpose of this organization shall be to further the serious discussion and study of the Civil War.” Our current by-laws cite our purpose as, “promoting and facilitating the serious discussion and study of the American Civil War.” So we must ask, what do we do that helps our mission? What do we do that hinders our mission? What do we do that has nothing to do with our mission? I look forward to the ongoing exploration of these important questions.

Even more than when this year began, it remains my honor and joy to be part of this remarkable organization and to serve its efforts – our efforts -- to promote the serious study of the American Civil War.

Your obedient servant,

Mary-Elizabeth Ellard

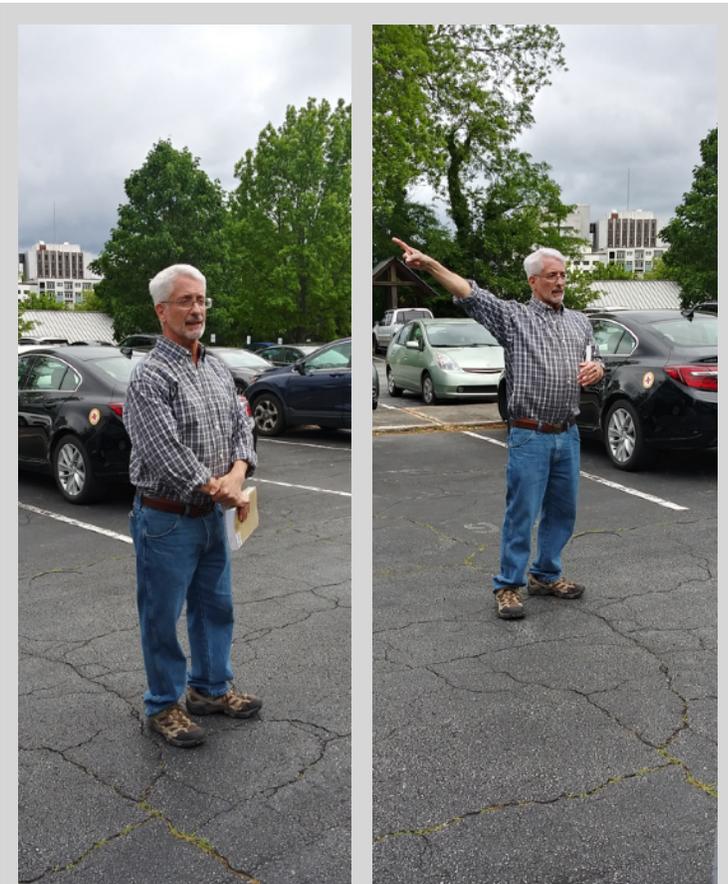
President July 2021- June 2022



Past ACWRT President Terry Kingery, President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard and Cobb County Civil War Roundtable President Mark Randle visit at the November 2021 Meeting. (Photo: Carol Willey)

Decatur: Fiercely Fought, Mostly Forgotten

On an unseasonably cold May morning, we gathered for the last battlefield tour of our campaign season, a look at the Battle of Decatur, a mostly forgotten confrontation that occurred to the east and simultaneously to the more famous Battle of Atlanta on July 22, 1864. Most of the Decatur battle's landmarks have been obscured by time and development but tour leader David Allison skillfully enabled us to envision the sites of the conflict. Standing on the parking lot of Decatur High School facing the railroad tracks near where the battle



Tour leader David Allison at the present Decatur High School parking lot. (Photos: Mike Pusateri)

opened, David delivered an energetic narration. First, he outlined the months of the Atlanta Campaign leading up to July 22, 1864, presenting the chronology of military actions and describing political forces and personalities. By the summer of 1864, the Union was succeeding with a number of operations in Georgia. Roads from Roswell, which the Union had taken in early July; Stone Mountain, where General James B. McPherson had been charged with destroying the railroad entering Atlanta from the east; and Covington, where U.S. General Kenner Garrard had marched to destroy bridges and railroad, led to Decatur.

David, who grew up in Decatur where as a boy he found battle relics, brought his life-long interest in the battle to his 2018 book, *Attacked on All Sides: The Civil War Battle of Decatur, Georgia, the Untold Story of the Battle of Atlanta*. For

the book, he studied official sources, books on the Battle of Atlanta and memoirs and letters from combatants and civilian chroniclers. For our talk, he briefly looked at the Battle of Decatur's cultural influence, discussed at length in his book. While he does not fully trust her account, David credits Decatur resident Mary Gay, who wrote of the battle in her memoir *Life in Dixie During the War*, as a source for *Gone With the Wind*, the 1936 novel which keeps the Atlanta Campaign famous.

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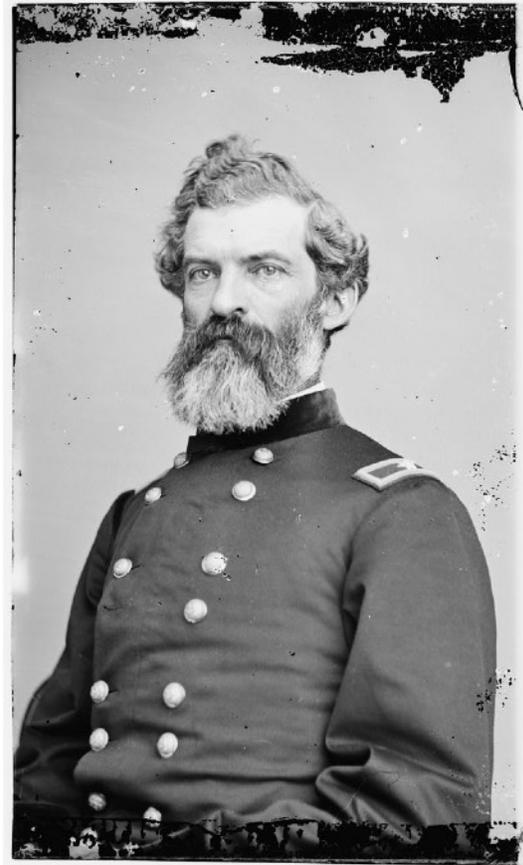
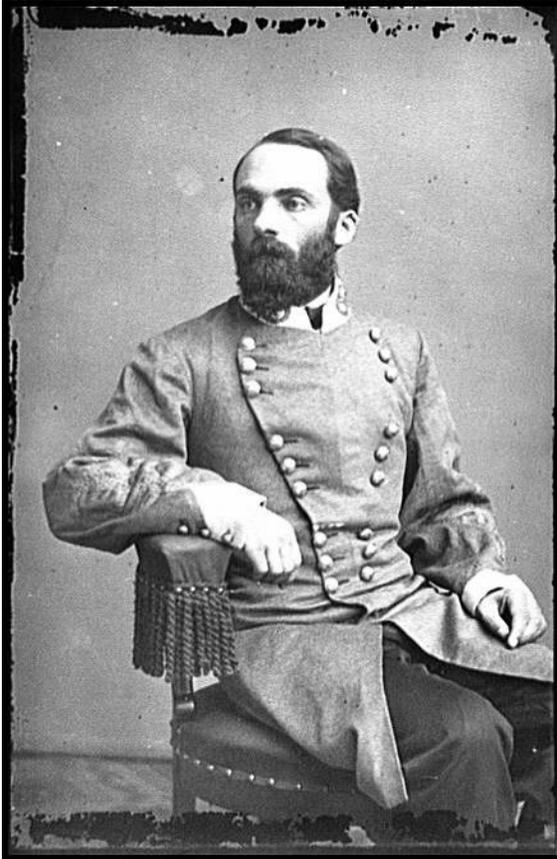
Tour participants take in David's narration, facing DeKalb's new and historic courthouses. (Photo: Gould Hagler)

Decatur: Fiercely Fought, Mostly Forgotten (From Page 5)

Particularly significant on the day of the battle were 400 Union supply wagons in a column about four miles long and located in the vicinity of Decatur's present day downtown. They had traveled there from Roswell, which had been occupied by the Federals in early July.

General John Bell Hood, the newly installed Confederate leader of the Atlanta Campaign, who had failed two days earlier with a defeat at the Battle of Peachtree Creek, sent Confederate cavalry General Joseph Wheeler to attack the wagon train. Wheeler encountered Federal infantry, led by U.S. Colonel John Wilson Sprague at 1 p.m. Wheeler dismounted two of his divisions and the battle ensued. A two-hour battle was fought at the heart of the town, from 1 to 3 p.m. The Federals were pushed through the city square and the town cemetery. The battle ceased suddenly when Wheeler and his forces were recalled westward to fight the Battle of Atlanta. Colonel Sprague and the wagon train survived, though the Union forces were heavily outnumbered. For his performance of a masterful delaying action, Sprague was promoted to the rank of Brigadier General on July 30, 1864. Ultimately Sprague became Brevet Major General of the U.S. Army and was further recognized with a posthumous Medal of Honor for his defense in Decatur after his death in December of 1893.

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At the heart of the Battle of Decatur, July 22, 1864: Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler, left, attacked Union supply wagons. Colonel John Wilson Sprague, right, provided a brilliant defense. (Portraits: Library of Congress)

Decatur: Fiercely Fought, Mostly Forgotten (From Page 6)

Now generally thought of as an aspect of the **Battle of Atlanta**, the Battle of Decatur, like all battles, was deeply significant for its aftermath in the lives it touched. David explores this in *Attacked on All Sides*. A total of 1,000 total U.S. forces were engaged in the two-hour contest. Of those, an approximate 242 were killed, missing or wounded after the battle. Of 100 captured, most were sent to the notorious Andersonville Prison in Middle Georgia. Many died in the Sultana disaster on the Mississippi River near Memphis on their way home after the war was over, The Sultana, an overloaded steamship, carrying former Union prisoners of war, sunk April 27, 1865, killing an estimated 1,547 people. Of 3,000 Confederate forces engaged in the battle, an estimated 70 to 140 were killed, wounded or missing after the battle. Among the markers erected by various groups after the Civil War ended, snippets of the battle history may be found around the city. Besides *Attacked on All Sides*, there is an excellent but obscure account, published by the late Dr. Albert Rauber, M.D. in June of 2003, *The Battle of Decatur: July 22, 1864*. This can be found in the reference room of the Decatur Public Library and copies are still sold by the DeKalb County History Center: <https://dekalbhistory.org/>; 101 E. Court Square, Decatur, Georgia/ 30033; 404-373-1088.

Kennesaw Mountain 158th Anniversary

For the 158th Anniversary of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, the Kennesaw National Park is hosting a number of events, especially on Saturday, June 25 and Sunday June 26. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/kemo/> or call 770-427-4686, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily for questions.

Saturday, June 25

9:00 - **Welcome and Opening Ceremony**

9:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

10 - Artillery Demonstration

11 - History Walk at Cheatham Hill

11:30 - Mountain Top History Hike

11:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

12:00 - Perry's Florida Boys at Kennesaw Mountain, Cheatham Hill

12:30 - 24 Gun Battery History Hike

1:00 - Artillery Demonstration

1:30 - Cheatham Hill Living History Walk

2:00 - Perry's Florida Boys at Kennesaw Mountain, Cheatham Hill

2:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

3:00 - Pigeon Hill History Hike

3:30 - Cheatham Hill Living History Walk

4:00 - Artillery Demonstration

4:30 - Memorial Field Talk

Sunday, June 26

10:00 - **Welcome Ceremony**

10:00 - Mountain Top History Hike

10:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

11:00 - Artillery Demonstration

11:30 - Cheatham Hill Living History Walk

12:00 - Perry's Florida Boys at Kennesaw Mountain, Cheatham Hill

12:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

1:00 - Artillery Demonstration

1:30 - Cheatham Hill Living History Walk

2:00 -

Walk Pigeon Hill History Hike

2:30 - Infantry Demonstration, Visitor Center

3:00 - Artillery Demonstration

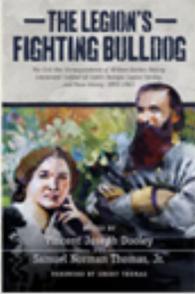
3:30 - What Comes Next: The Atlanta Campaign after Kennesaw Mountain Talk



In September 2021, John Miller organized an exciting tour of Kennesaw and Lost Mountain with guide Michael Shaffer. At the Illinois Monument: (Seated, Left to Right:) Carol Willey, Michael Shaffer, Gould Hagler. (Standing, Left to Right:) John Miller, Cameron Barham, standing behind his wife Susan Barham; Leslie Humber, Susan's sister, standing to her right and to the left of her husband Thomas Humber; ACWRT Members Dick Plunkett and Kerry Eliot.

Upcoming Events

The Atlanta Civil War Round Table has purchased a Table for this month's KSU Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar. The first six respondents to this notice will be provided with tickets. To put your hat into the ring for one of our tickets please email Tim Whalen: whalen315@aol.com

6th Annual Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar



**Featuring: Brian Steel Wills
Richard McMurry on Joseph Johnston
and Will Greene on Petersburg**






Sponsorship: \$275
Table (6): \$275
Individual: \$55
Kennesaw Corps Members: \$45

Registration Required



KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE CIVIL WAR ERA

Room 400, KSU Center
Kennesaw, Ga.,
Sat., June 18, 2022
Starting at 9:00 AM

Our friends at the Atlanta Preservation Center have organized a host of fascinating tours through the summer months. To consult the schedule, please see: https://www.atlantapreservationcenter.com/Walking_tour_calendar.

Coming up and of particular interest to Civil War buffs is the Georgia Capitol Faces and Places Tour, to be held the afternoon of Thursday, June 16 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9.50 to \$17.50. Register for the tour here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/georgia-capitol-faces-and-places-tour-tickets-349782858947>

On Monday, July 11, 2022 from 10 a.m. to noon, the Preservation Center will host a free tour of the Lemuel P. Grant Mansion, its headquarters in Grant Park. Grant was an engineer and railroad man, one of Atlanta's founders. Register for the tour here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lp-grant-mansion-tour-the-headquarters-of-the-atl-preservation-center->

On Saturday, July 2, from 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m., Oakland Cemetery will host a free tour, “Margaret Mitchell and Gone With the Wind.” The tour, starting at the Front Gate at MLK Jr. Drive and Oakland Avenue, will visit the gravesites of Margaret Mitchell, her family members and others who inspired *Gone With the Wind* characters. For further information, see <https://oaklandcemetery.com/event/margaret-mitchell-and-gone-with-the-wind-4/>

The Atlanta Antique Gun and International Military Show will be held at the IAMAW Union Hall/ 1031 S. Marietta Parkway, Marietta, Georgia on Friday, July 15, from noon to 5 p.m., and Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily admission is \$7; a two-day pass is \$10. Admission for ages 7-12 is \$1. For further information see: <https://www.thecarolinatrader.com/pages/military-shows>



Mark Dunkelman, left, presented a most engaging program last month. Our President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, right, was amused that he won a copy of one of his own books as a door prize.



Crawford Receives Historical Society Award

For his work preserving Georgia battlefields, Round Table Trivia Master Charlie Crawford, longtime trustee of the Georgia Battlefields Association, accepted the 2021 John Macpherson Berrien Lifetime Achievement Award from our special guest, W. Todd Groce, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Historical Society, at our May 10 meeting. Congratulations Charlie!

Atlanta Civil War Round Table

Officers and Executive Committee 2021-2022

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mary-Elizabeth Ellard | President |
| Loran Crabtree | First Vice President |
| Bill Dodd | Second Vice President |
| Tim Whalen | Secretary/ Treasurer |
| Carlton Mullis | Immediate Past President |

At Large Executive Committee Second Year:

John Miller; Robert Fugate

At Large Executive Committee First Year:

John Ottley; Sy Goodman