



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

May 2012

593rd Meeting

Leon McElveen, Editor

May Meeting

Reservations Are Required

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR DINNER
RESERVATION CHECK OF **\$33.00** PER
PERSON TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

David Floyd
4696 Kellogg Drive, SW
Lilburn, GA 30047- 4408

TO REACH DAVID NO LATER THAN NOON
ON THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE MEETING

E-mail and telephone reservations will
not be accepted

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Time: Cocktails: 6:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

Place: Ansley Golf Club
196 Montgomery Ferry Road

Price: \$33.00 per person

Program: Robert Girardi

*Railroad Defense in the Atlanta
Campaign*

Robert Girardi: Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign

Amateurs talk strategy; Professionals talk logistics". No one better understood the truth of this maxim than William T. Sherman.

Our May speaker, Robert I. Girardi, will discuss how Sherman realized that the 1864 Atlanta Campaign was all about railroads. Sherman observed that "provisions", not the Confederate army, "was the most difficult of my problems." He felt his army was large enough to take Atlanta—provided he could feed and resupply them along the one railroad that led south from his base in Chattanooga to Atlanta. Sherman worried more about Confederate cavalry in his rear than about the Army of Tennessee to his front. Thus Sherman assigned thousands of Union soldiers to guard the railroads, to rebuild burned bridges, and to fend off raids by Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler. Sherman launched thousands more Union soldiers on raids into Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, to keep busy the very Confederate cavalry who could threaten his supply lines.

Robert Girardi is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. He earned his M.A. in Public History from Loyola University in Chicago in 1991. Girardi has studied the war from all sides, and has tramped over many of the battlefields and related sites. He is both an author and historian and is a well traveled speaker and consultant on the American Civil War. He is a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is an associate member of the Sons of Union Veterans.

Join us for a great opportunity to hear about a subject that involved the war in our immediate area.

Stephen Davis in April

Round Table friend and frequent speaker presented our April program with his topic of: "What the Yankees did to Us".

Our thanks to Steve for spending his evening with us and providing our membership with an outstanding program.

2011 - 2012 Program Preview

June 12, 2012..... Jeffry Wert
James Longstreet: The Staff in Lee's Right Hand

Upcoming Events

May 6, 2012: Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park near Kennesaw. 11 am, noon, 2 pm and 3 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/kemo

May 19 - 20, 2012: Reenactment, "Battle of Resaca," north of Resaca, off US Hwy 41. Living history camps and demonstrations open 9 am with battles at 2 pm each day. \$5. www.georgiadiivision.org.

May 27 - 28, 2012: Living history, artillery demonstrations at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park near Kennesaw. 11 am, noon, 2 pm and 3 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/kemo

May 28, 2012: Ranger program, "Fallen Leaders of Chickamauga," at the Chickamauga Battlefield. 2 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/chch

May 3, 2012: 1:30 pm, The City of Dalton and the Dalton 150th Committee will dedicate an interpretive marker entitled "Fort Hill." Fort Hill School, 104 Fort Hill Terrace .

Macon to Milledgeville Field Trip Recap

Perfect weather and our outstanding tour guide and member, Dr. Bill Bragg, made for an outstanding day for our Activities Committee sold out charter bus field trip for our 56 members. The field trip included a tour of Macon, the Cannonball House and museum, Ft. Hawkins, lunch at Ocmulgee Indian Mounds Park, the Griswoldville Battlefield, Milledgeville including the old Capital secession chamber and museum and the Governors Mansion, a visit to Samuel Griswold's gravesite, and a tour of Gen. Iverson's birthplace and other historic private houses that were opened just for our members in Old Clinton. We want to thank everyone especially guide Bill Bragg for participating and being a part of this successful and informative field trip.

The Battle of Jonesboro Field Trip: June 16.

Our final field trip of the year will be led by member and official tour guide Art Carey with a special tour of the Battle of Jonesboro, Stately Oaks Plantation that survives from the battle followed by a private tour of the nearby National Archives to be led by the Director Jim McSweeney. Further details will be sent out to all members. Come join us for the last field trip of the year.

150 Years Ago

- 5 May 1862:** Battle of Williamsburg Major General James Longstreet [CS] nearly defeats Major General "Fighting Joe" Hooker [US] .
- 11 May 1862:** Confederate soldiers scuttle the C.S.S. *Virginia* near Norfolk
- 23 May 1862:** Battle of Front Royal
- 25 May 1862:** Battle of Winchester, Stonewall Jackson [CS] defeats Nathaniel Banks [US]
- 25 May 1862:** Gen. Halleck arrives outside of Corinth. It has taken him 26 days to march 20 miles, virtually unopposed
- 30 May 1862:** Confederates evacuate Corinth.
- 31 May 1862:** Battle of Joseph E. Johnston severely wounded during the Battle of Fair Oaks



Officers for the 2011 -2012 Campaign:

- President** Gould Hagler
- First Vice President** Jack Melton
- Second Vice President** Art Carey
- Secretary / Treasurer** David Floyd
- Executive Committee** 2012:..... Gary Barnes
 2012:..... David Beale
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