



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table
Founded 1949

December Meeting

Reservations are required

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DINNER
RESERVATION IN THE AMOUNT
OF **\$39** PER PERSON ONLINE AT

www.atlantacwrt.org

Scroll down to the left to pay online

Or Mail to the Following Address:

Tim Whalen: P.O Box 2355

Griffin, GA: 30224

**TO REACH TIM NO LATER THAN
THURSDAY BEFORE THE
MEETING.**

Date: Tuesday, December 10

Time: Cocktails 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:45 p.m.

Place: Capital City Club-
Downtown; 7 John
Portman Blvd.

Price: **\$39** per person

Program:

A. Wilson Greene

Grant's 2nd Petersburg Offensive

Menu for December Meeting

Lettuce Wedge

Braised Beef Bordelaise

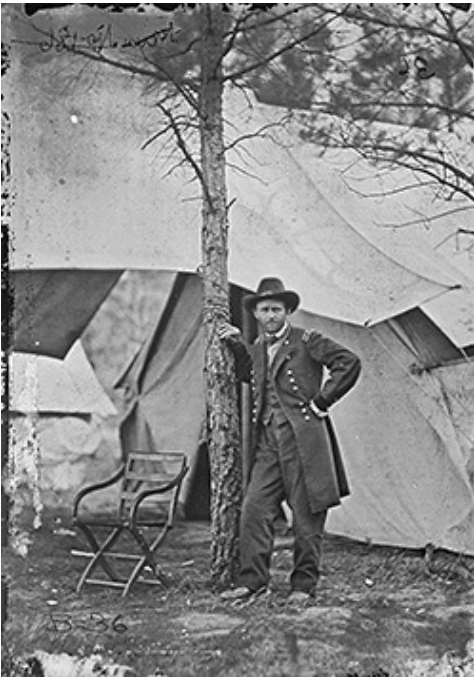
Dark Chocolate Cake

Grant's 2nd Petersburg Offensive

Following Ulysses S. Grant's failure to capture Petersburg during his initial offensive, June 15-18 of 1864, he made plans for a second attempt combining a massive infantry movement and a large-scale cavalry raid. Grant assigned the Second and Sixth Corps of the Army of the Potomac to move around the Confederate right flank and hem in Robert E. Lee's army while 5,500 horsemen under James H. Wilson and August V. Kautz cut the three railroads that fed Richmond and Petersburg from the south and west. This gambit, styled the Second Petersburg Offensive, unfolded between June 21 and July 1 and is the least-known of all the major actions during the Petersburg Campaign. General William Mahone would emerge as Lee's most trusted combat officer during these affairs, rallying his troops later that month and on July 30 turning the Battle of the Crater into a victory for Lee and a disaster for the Union.

Historian Will Greene's talk is taken from 2019 Atlanta Civil War Round Table Harwell Award winner *A Campaign of Giants: The Battle for Petersburg, Volume One—From the Crossing of the James to the Crater*. A leading authority on the Petersburg Campaign, Will served for 16 years as historian and park manager at Petersburg National Battlefield. He was the first executive director for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (now the American Battlefield Trust). He is the author of seven books and more than 25 articles on the Civil War. Greene's 2008 book, *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War*, received the prestigious Daniel M. And Marilyn W. Laney Book Prize. Will's research for *Campaign of Giants* began in 2007. Two volumes will follow *From the Crossing of the James to the Crater*.

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This photograph of Ulysses S. Grant taken at Cold Harbor in 1864 by photographer Mathew Brady or one of his team is one of the most famous images of the Civil War. Technological advances then allowed photography to become a force in war reporting for the first time. These photos are now also a vital tool for historians. The Center for Civil War Photography, whose vice president Garry Adelman is our next speaker, studies and presents historic photography. Its first function was staged at Gettysburg in 2001. Many seminars and programs have followed. The Center regularly publishes new books in its 99 *Historic Images* series. Among these is 99 *Historic Images of Civil War Petersburg*. For information on programs and other offerings see: <https://www.civilwarphotography.org>

In January: Garry Adelman on Artillery

Author and editor of more than thirty books and articles on the Civil War, Garry Adelman currently serves as chief historian and director of history and education for the American Battlefield Trust and as vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography. He has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg for almost 25 years and his work is particularly notable for exploring Gettysburg's battle sites. An investigation of historic Gettysburg photos led to his 2003 book, *The Myth of Little Round Top*. Adelman's interest in the Civil War began in high school when he happened across the book by pioneering Civil War photography historian William Frassanito, *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*.

Harwell Book Award Recognizes Excellence

After renowned Civil War scholar, editor and author Richard Barksdale Harwell died in March of 1988, the Atlanta Civil War Round Table established the Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award to memorialize its first President. In the 30 years since original Harwell committee members Tom Watson Brown, Col. Jim Bogle and Ron Hudgins started an annual pursuit of the best book published on a Civil War subject for the preceding calendar year, the Harwell Award has gained national recognition as a mark of excellence for Civil War books. Born in 1915 in Washington, Georgia, Richard Harwell was raised in Atlanta where he obtained bachelor and post-graduate library science degrees at Emory. He served in World War II as the youngest commander of a Navy minesweeper. A college librarian and historian, Harwell worked at Duke University, Smith College, the Virginia State Library, Emory University, Bowdoin College and Georgia Southern and as curator of rare books at the University of Georgia. Harwell also wrote and edited books throughout his career. His focus on the Civil War began when he helped Margaret Mitchell research *Gone With the Wind*. Eventually he held the largest private collection ever assembled of that novel's editions and memorabilia. Douglas Southall Freeman, biographer of Robert E. Lee and George Washington, chose Harwell to condense his multi-volume works on the two military leaders. Harwell's edition of Freeman's Robert E. Lee biography is still regarded as the best book on the subject of Lee.

President's Corner

This month our dinner meeting will celebrate an important milestone for the Atlanta Civil War Round Table—the 70th anniversary of our Round Table dinner meetings! The Round Table was organized in the fall of 1949 by a few Atlantans prominent for their interest in the events and personalities of the Civil War. They included prime “instigator” Richard Barksdale Harwell and Beverly Means DuBose Jr.. Dick Harwell was voted the first President, and their first dinner was given on December 10, 1949 at the Piedmont Driving Club with a program delivered by Mr. Monroe Cockrell on the “Siege of Vicksburg.” DuBose recalled “fifteen or 20 Civil War buffs” attended. May we continue to honor and support the traditions and ideals of historical inquiry, remembering this seminal event they began “three-score and ten” years ago!

We delayed our traditional Christmas Truce this year as our Harwell winner, Will Greene, needed to schedule his presentation this month. Thus, we officially announce the Truce as starting at 9:01 p.m. December 10, 2019, to extend well into the New Year of 2020! Be assured we may all arm and fortify ourselves prior to that time with good cheer brought by time spent with good friends, new friends—and your cocktail of choice.

Merry Christmas!

John

Officers for the 2019-2020 Campaign

President	John Dietrichs
First Vice President	Carlton Mullis
Second Vice President	Mary-Elizabeth Ellard
Secretary/Treasurer	Tim Whalen
Executive Committee:	Loran Crabtree; Robert Woodruff; Tom Prior; Bill Dodd
Immediate Past President	Brian Wills



Relic of the Month

This will indeed be a Christmas present to remember for one of our members or guests at the December meeting. Beverly M. DuBose Jr. had several brass eagle ornaments he personally placed on display cases in his basement collection rooms between 1953 and 1974. There were only four of these brass shields—this was on the case housing an astonishing array of Confederate buckles, belt plates, cartridge boxes, etc. Included in this raffle giveaway will be a photo showing this case and this shield in situ.

Good Luck!



Trading for Coffee and Tobacco Between the Fortified Lines During a Truce
From *Life Studies of the Great Army: A Historical Artwork*, Edwin Forbes, 1876

From the Round Table **Battle Lines** Archives, December 1958:

“And so another year of fighting—local but sometimes rising to the crescendo of heavy battle—draws near its end. And again the men of both sides—Johnny Reb and Billy Yank alike—will lay down their arms and slip past the picket parties to hold unauthorized “truces” with the very men they have been seeking to kill. Again Billy Yank will stock up on tobacco and toe-warming corn liquor while his Johnny Reb comrade-of-the-moment luxuriates with coffee and sugar and the contents of fat Yankee haversacks. Members, wives and guests from both sides may fraternize in perfect safety, armed with nothing more deadly than a cocktail or an hors d’oeuvre. Firing may be resumed only after seven o’clock. The “Truce” will be held at the Atlanta Historical Society on Peachtree Street, in the zone of Hardee’s attack on July 20th, 1864.”

W.G. Ryckman, Chairman, 1958 Program Committee Atlanta Civil War Round Table
(Mr. Ryckman also served as ACWRT President 1961-1962)