



# Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table  
Founded 1949

## March Meeting

*Reservations are required*

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

[www.atlantacwrt.org](http://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, March 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:**

Tim Smith

*Johnston's "Iron Dice of Battle"*

### **Menu for March Meeting**

Arugula Salad

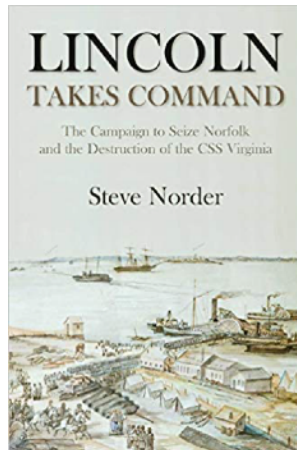
Seared Salmon

Sponge Cake/ Fresh Berry Trifle

## Johnston's 'Iron Dice of Battle'

Perhaps the best way to analyze General Albert Sidney Johnston's life and Confederate command is by seeing him as a gambler. Early in life, his betting strategies emerged in the face of life-or-death or life-altering decisions. Later, he risked family and army organizations with gambles. In his tenure as Western Theater Confederate commander, Johnston had to bluff and deceive with a strict poker face. He did so until the enemy upped the ante with Confederate defeats at Forts Henry and Donelson. Johnston ultimately had to call his opponent's hand, and at Shiloh he declared he must "roll the iron dice of battle." This was a gamble to be sure, but it had to be done. At Shiloh Johnston said, he and the Confederate army must "conquer or perish." Johnston was to meet his own death at Shiloh. The Confederate defeat there, with military setbacks earlier in 1862, led to a dismal situation for the Confederacy, especially in the west. These far outlived Johnston's tenure as the Confederacy's highest ranking commander.

Our March speaker Dr. Tim Smith received the Round Table's 2015 Richard Harwell Book Award for his 2014 book *Shiloh: Conquer or Perish*. Tim is the author, editor, or co-editor of twenty books including other award winners *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg*, 2004; *Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation*, 2012; *Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson*, 2016; and *The Real Horse Soldiers: Benjamin Grierson's Epic 1863 Civil War Raid*, 2018. His new book *The Union Assaults at Vicksburg: Grant Attacks Pemberton* was released in January. Tim, holds a 2001 Ph.D. from Mississippi State University, and teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin.



## The Military Lincoln

Atlanta Civil War Round Table member Steve Norder will discuss his new book and years-long investigation into five days in May 1862, when President Abraham Lincoln assumed the role of military commander, at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. After the program, "A Week with Lincoln," Steve will sign copies of his book.

## KSU: Waters Ablaze

On March 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Michael Powell, Jeffery Seymour and Dr. Brian Steel Wills will offer presentations for KSU's 17th Annual Symposium on the topic of "Navies in the Civil War" in Room 400. For further information call: 470-578-4771.

## Atlanta Preservation Center Civil War Tours

The Atlanta Preservation Center is hosting guided tours at three Atlanta Civil War sites this month. Walking Tours of the Battle of Peachtree Creek will take place March 8, 15 and 22nd from 2 to 4 p.m. These three-mile round-trip tours begin at the Defoor Center parking lot: 1710 Defoor Avenue/ Atlanta, GA 30305. Participation is limited to 10 per tour. The tour Tombs & Trenches: History of Utoy Cemetery will be offered March 13 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. at 1465 Cahaba Drive/ Atlanta, GA 30311. A Battle of Atlanta Trench Tour on Sunday March 15 at 3 p.m. starts at Joe's Coffee Shop: 510 Flat Shoals Ave/ Atlanta, GA 30316. This event is limited to 20. To register see [preserveatl.eventbrite.com](http://preserveatl.eventbrite.com) or call the Tour Hotline: 404-688-3350. All tours are free.



Cyclorama: Troup Hurt House & DeGress' Battery

## Cahaba: Walking Tour and Memorial Service

At our February meeting, author Peter Cozzens explored the history of the Cahaba Confederate Prison Camp. There will be a Civil War Walking Tour, reenactment and memorial service at the site of the prison on Saturday April 4 at the park: 9518 Cahaba Road/ Orrville, AL 36767. The tour starts at 10 a.m. Admission is \$8. A memorial service for the Union Prisoners who died at Cahaba will follow. For information see: [www.cahawba.com](http://www.cahawba.com) or call 334-872-8058.

## William Feis on U. S. General Grenville Dodge

Join us April 14 to hear Civil War intelligence expert Dr. William Feis discuss the work of Union General Grenville Dodge, who became a pioneer in the field of military intelligence during the Civil War. Bill teaches at Buena Vista University in Iowa and is author of 2017's *Essentially American: General Grenville M. Dodge and Family*.



### Relic of the Month

For March's raffle, we are offering a small pickax from the Beverly M. DuBose Jr. Relic Collection (a sampling is pictured above). The pickax was recovered over 50 years ago at a postbellum Western fort the army used to guard men building the Union Pacific Railroad. "Bo" DuBose and his father used a WWII Army surplus Mine Detector and later more advanced technology to uncover a host of American military objects. The 13 1/2 inch pickax blade is a Mexican War type.

### Atlanta Campaign Photos

At the Atlanta History Center, on Saturday, April 11 at 2 p.m., Civil War historian Stephen Davis will offer a program on civilian photographer George N. Barnard, who was hired by Union General W. T. Sherman to take pictures of the Atlanta campaign. Tickets for this well-illustrated lecture are \$10 for non-members; \$ 5 for members. For further information, call the History Center at 404-814-4000.

## The President's Corner

All of us know the name of General Joseph E. Johnston, who led Confederate forces through Georgia until relieved of command just before the Battle of Peachtree Creek. Less well known is General Albert Sidney Johnston, killed at the Battle of Shiloh, on April 6, 1862. From pictures I remember, I thought he was a younger man— but he was 59 when he died, a very experienced military leader. Two years ahead of Jefferson Davis at West Point, Johnston graduated in 1826. In 1836 he moved to Texas, joined the "Texian" Army during the Texas War of Independence as a private, and within less than 6 months became the senior Brigadier General in command of the Texas Army! Johnston returned to Texas during the Mexican-American War, serving as a Colonel under General Zachary Taylor, fighting at the Battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista. He then remained in military service, becoming Brevet Brigadier General in 1857. Like many army officers from the South, he was opposed to secession. Like Robert E. Lee, when his home state seceded, he resigned his commission to join the Confederate Army. Our speaker in March, Dr. Tim Smith, will tell you more of this story in his presentation. Johnston was the highest ranking officer, Union or Confederate, killed during battle in the entire war. Jefferson Davis believed his loss to be "...the turning point of our fate."

*John*

## Officers for the 2019-2020 Campaign Year

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