



# Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

A non-profit 501c3, dedicated to Promoting the Serious Study of the American Civil War

## December Meeting

*Tuesday, December 14*

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

*6:45 p.m. Dinner*

## Reservations Required

Register online at  
[www.atlantacwrt.org](http://www.atlantacwrt.org)

or mail a check (\$39 per ticket)  
to Tim Whalen: P.O. Box 2355  
Griffin, GA 30224 .

Reservations must be made  
by Thursday, December 9 at 8 p.m.

## Meeting Location

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

*\* Masking expected  
from the car drop off portico  
to the meeting room*

## Menu

Festive Salad;  
Fried Chicken Entrée;  
Holiday Desert.

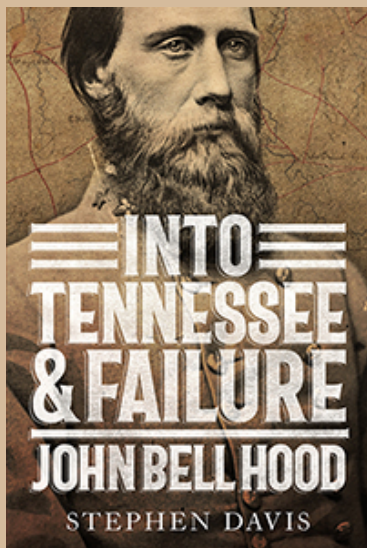
## Gunboats on the Hooch!

**Y**ankees in Georgia and gunboats on Hooch! How on Earth did they ever get in? As Director of History and Collections at the National Civil War Naval Museum in Columbus, Jeffery Seymour knows better than anyone else. Come learn about the brown water navy in our own backyard at our December 14 meeting. Originally from LaGrange, Jeffery has worked as an archivist at the National Civil War Naval Museum since 2004 and he has been the Historian and Curator there since 2006. He also teaches as an adjunct professor at Columbus State University. He holds bachelor and master of arts degrees from Jacksonville State University and has further graduate hours in archival studies and history from Auburn University. Jeffrey has written many articles for encyclopedias and websites on the topic of American Naval History and has also written book reviews on the topic of the Civil War Naval history. A contributor of articles to *Civil War Navy—The Magazine*, Jeffery is also a noted speaker. His talks have been featured on C-Span and Georgia Public Broadcasting.





**S**teve Davis poses with Gary Barnes, Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award Committee Chairman. Both of Steve's books on the subject of John Bell Hood are remarkably "well written" and valuable to "seasoned historians" yet accessible to the ordinary "Civil War buff," Gary observed.



## John Bell Hood: A Closer Look

**F**or our November program, 2021 Harwell Book Award winner Steve Davis compared "two daring, foredoomed attacks," General Robert E. Lee's charge at Gettysburg in 1863 and General John Bell Hood's attack at Franklin in 1864. The generals' strategies are paralleled in Steve's *Into Tennessee and Failure: John Bell Hood*, the 2021 Harwell Book Award winner. In both *Into Tennessee and Failure* and 2019's *Texas Brigadier to the Fall of Atlanta: John Bell Hood*, the first in Steve's two-book series, Hood's character and choices are intricately traced. Both books were honored with this year's Fletcher Pratt Award from the Civil War Roundtable of New York and the Douglas Southall Freeman Award. A renowned Civil War scholar and author, Steve first spoke to the Round Table in 1989, the first year of our influential book award, named for one of our Atlanta Round Table founders, Richard Barksdale Harwell. Accepting the award, Steve gratefully remembered Rich Harwell's invaluable mentorship early in his career.



Past President John Dietrichs, 2021 Harwell prizewinner Steve Davis and Trivia Master Charlie Crawford, before our November meeting.





**N**inety attended our November 9 meeting at the Capital City Club to celebrate the 2021 winner of the Richard Barksdale Harwell Award, longtime Atlanta Civil War Round Table friend Steve Davis. Above, Left to Right: Andrea Dodd, Charlie Crawford and Second Vice President Bill Dodd visit before the meeting. Top Right, Left to Right: Past President Terry Kingery and President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard converse with Mark Randle, the new President of the Cobb County Civil War Roundtable. Middle Right, Left to Right: New ACWRT member Chris Welton, a board member of the American Battlefield Trust, President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award Prizewinner Steve Davis and Mark Randle after our November meeting. Right Bottom: Steve and his table of books before the meeting. Steve is the author of many books and hundreds of articles on the Civil War. (This Photo Contributed by Chad Carlson)



## Battlefield Tours Bring History to Life

**S**aturday November 20 we enjoyed a carpool trip to participate in some of the programming presented that day in observance of the 158th Anniversary of the Battles for Chattanooga (November 23-25, 1863) by the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, including two two- hour walking tours of Moccasin Bend, Brown's Ferry, and portions of the Trail of Tears with Historian Jim Ogden. Please look for Gould Hagler's wonderful photographs on our Facebook page and Carol Willey's coverage in this edition of *Battle Lines*.

We will host several tours in the Atlanta area next spring. Please mark your calendars for these dates:

- March 5 Picketts Mill with well known author, professor, and tour guide Michael Shaffer, co-hosted with the Cobb County Civil War Round Table.
- April 23 Utoy Creek with retired Lt. Col. Perry Bennett, US Army. Perry is widely known for his wealth of knowledge on this part of the Atlanta campaign.
- May 7 Decatur Battlefield with local author David Allison. The Decatur tour will be co-hosted with the Dekalb History Center and I believe will be exploring new interpretations of this important element of the Battle of Atlanta. We will lunch together inside the old courthouse and will participate in a short tour of its exhibits.

So keep watch for news of these tours in forthcoming issues of *Battle Lines*. The Picketts Mill signup will be available in January. And we encourage everyone to register for the Georgia Battlefields Association's middle Georgia "March To The Sea" tour March 31 through April 3, based in Macon. <http://www.georgiabattlefields.org/tours.aspx>

May you and your families enjoy all the best of this holiday season.

**John Miller, At Large Executive Committee Second Year**



Left to Right: Round Table Webmaster and Photographer Gould Hagler, At Large Executive Committee Member John Miller and friend Charles Absher at the beginning of our November 20 tour.



## Brown's Ferry Crossing Launched Union Victory

**O**ur November tour began at Moccasin Bend on the Tennessee River where the structure for a Union victory in the Battles for Chattanooga began. Confederate General Braxton Bragg had trapped Union General William S.

Rosencrans' troops in Chattanooga, maintaining a siege with his forces from Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. The Union troops were cut off from any supply line; men and horses were weak after over a month of deprivation.

Rosencrans' forces had been defeated in the Battle of Chickamauga, fought nearby in Georgia from September 18 to 20 of 1863. On October 27 a supply line to nourish the Union was opened when Union General William B. Hazen's Brigade crossed the Tennessee River at Moccasin Bend's Brown's Ferry to establish a route for food and forage. Hazen's 1,400 men, traveling at cover of night in the early morning hours, built a pontoon bridge of boats across the Tennessee River at the site of the ferry route, which had been in use since the early 19th Century, well before 1838's Cherokee removal. The resulting Union supply or "cracker line" was a "lifeline for the Union Army," said our guide, Chickamauga National Military Park historian Jim Ogden. Chaos and fighting followed but the supply line to Chattanooga from the Union depot on the Tennessee River at Bridgeport, Alabama survived. Union General Ulysses S. Grant had been given command of all Union forces in the West that October. In Chattanooga, he replaced Rosencrans with Maj. General George Thomas. Reinforcement arrived when Union General William T. Sherman crossed the Tennessee at Brown's Ferry on November 13 with a column from Alabama to fortify Ulysses S. Grant's offensive. When Sherman met with Grant on the 15th, he observed "General Grant, you are besieged," said Jim.

Sherman's high energy and troops proved transformative for the Union situation. With failures including what Jim described as "poor use of terrain," the Confederacy would lose the November 23-25, 1863 Battles for Chattanooga and retreat back into Georgia.



Above: Jim Ogden at the Brown's Ferry site. Bottom: Locals who joined the tour, Ward Fleissner (Left) and Voreata Waddell (Right) helped Jim unfold an archaeology map picturing recent discoveries at Moccasin Bend's ancient road to Brown's Ferry.





**F**or the afternoon leg of our November tour, we explored the fascinating Fort Whitaker, where two Union artillery batteries, aimed at the Confederate positions on Lookout Mountain, were located. Well-preserved earthworks built to protect Union guns and hut pods for 108 structures stand witness to the life 158 years ago of Union forces on the hill. Union General Walter Whitaker, perhaps jestingly, named the complex after himself. Above: Jim begins our afternoon tour in front of Lookout Mountain. Top Left, Jim leads us up the hill toward the batteries and the remains of a Union shanty village. Left: Two Union cannon were placed at these earthworks, which were constructed to protect artillerymen. Lookout Mountain, where the Confederates were based and the guns were aimed, is visible ahead.







**J**im finally led us to the top of the complex where one of the most important Union artillery positions once stood. The fortifications were disturbed in the 1970s when the city of Chattanooga placed a radio tower for the police department at the top of the hill but the boundaries remain. Two ten-pounder Parrott rifles are thought to have been placed within them. The location above the Tennessee River and the City of Chattanooga, then as now, offers an ideal view. Top Left: New Member Elizabeth Talmadge with the Tennessee River and Chattanooga in the Background. Top Right, Jim at the top of the hill which towers over the Tennessee River. Left: John Miller and Gould Hagler.



## Silent Auctions for Civil War Framed Prints

**T**he Atlanta Civil War Round Table has received an anonymous gift of several fine, beautifully framed prints of Civil War subjects. We will make these available to you, the membership, through this Campaign year. The prints will be offered through a silent auction prior to dinner meetings, with your bid sent by e-mail to Tim Whalen, our Treasurer, at [whalen315@aol.com](mailto:whalen315@aol.com). The bids will be taken by Tim through noon on the day of our meeting, with the proceeds going into our Round Table coffers—with great appreciation to our generous benefactor. Each print of the month will be on display at the check-in table at the Capitol City Club with the winners' name attached. The print offered for the December meeting on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> will be Don Troiani's 1986 limited edition print "Bronze Guns and Iron Men – Pelham's Horse Artillery Battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862," numbered 136 of 950 and signed by Don Troiani. Framed size 30" x 33 1/2", triple matted. A great image of Civil War artillery in battle!



**J**oin the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History on December 11 from 9:30 a.m. through 5 p.m. "The Polar Express" movie will be screened at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with a reading of the book at 1 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on-site from 1-5 p.m. The Southern Museum, associated with the Smithsonian Institution, is the home of Georgia's most famous train, The General. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 3-17 and for active Military and \$8 for Seniors. The address: 2829 Cherokee St. NW/ Kennesaw, GA. For information: see <https://southernmuseum.org/visit/> or call (770) 427-2117.

### ACWRT YouTube Channel

**W**e know a number of you are anxious to take advantage of the YouTube channel option planned for ACWRT. Many found they enjoyed our Zoom meetings and would prefer to enjoy our programs from home. We hope to offer those who do not attend the option of viewing our meeting programs for a cost of \$15. Those who have attended the meeting would have a recording sent to them as a bonus. At this point, we have a channel but are having difficulties implementing its use. Please be patient with us as we develop this program. Expect more information at our December 14 meeting, in messages from our board and in *Battle Lines*.



## December Programs at Kennesaw and State Parks

**Unknown Soldier of Kennesaw Mountain:** Join our roving Park Ranger near the Unknown Soldier's gravesite in the Cheatham Hill area on Saturday, December 4, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Cheatham Hill Dr./ Marietta, GA/ 30064) Come out, say hello and have a chat with us about the battle.

**For details** about this or any of the other Kennesaw Park programs listed here, call 770-427-4686, ext. 0 or visit the website at <https://www.nps.gov/kemo/planyourvisit/hours.htm>.

### Life of a Soldier, Kennesaw

**Mountain:** Ever wondered what it was like to be a soldier during the Civil War? Join a ranger to gain insight on Sunday, December 5 at 11 a.m. The role of the common infantry soldier of the Civil War and the Atlanta Campaign will be discussed. Long days, poor diet and boredom were just part of the experience for these men. Location, The Visitor Center: 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive/ Kennesaw, GA/ 30152.

**Kennesaw's Pigeon Hill:** On Saturday, December 11 from 2 to 3 p.m., a Ranger will be available for questions. Come out, say hello and have a chat about the battle. At the juncture of Old Mountain and Burnt Hickory Roads (GPS: 33-963276,-84594391)

### Kennesaw Memorial Field

**History Walk:** A ranger led history talk will begin at the Visitor Center on Sunday, December 12 at 11 a.m. The tour will include several locations crucial to the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

**Atlanta Campaign Talk:** On Saturday, December 18 at 11 a.m., a 30 minute, ranger-led program will be held at the Visitor Center front patio. The focus will be on how the Union and Confederate forces moved through the north Georgia countryside to the city of Atlanta.

**Mountaintop Hike:** This ranger-led hike begins Sunday, December 26 at 11 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. It will take participants to the top of Big Kennesaw Mountain and explore the history of the lonely peak from its creation to today. The hike is approximately 2 miles (round trip) with an elevation of around 700 feet, over moderate terrain. Please bring decent hiking shoes.

### *This Christmas: Parks Are Open and Celebrating*

**Christmas at Red Top Mountain State Park:** Yuletide celebrations are scheduled for Saturday, December 11. Civil War re-enactors will be away from the battle and home for the holiday but they will be camping in tents, firing black powder weapons, joining in marching formations and more from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Soldiers will be camped around the Log Cabin where Santa will preside by the fireplace from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Holiday crafts, pioneer toys, games, music, and more will be part of the celebration! Access to the cabin requires a short walk on a paved trail. The event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather. \$5 parking. See <https://gastateparks.org/RedTopMountain> or call 770-975-0055.

**Holidays on the 1860s Home Front:** At Pickett's Mill Historic Site, on Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., expert volunteers from the Friends of the Pickett's Mill Battlefield will conduct a traditional celebration of the holiday spirit at the historic cabin to demonstrate the folkways of decorating for the holidays in the 1860s. There will be toys and games for all. Admission fee required: \$3 to \$6 For further information see <https://gastateparks.org/PickettsMillBattlefield> or call (770) 443-7850

**Christmas in the Civil War:** Join our park rangers at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Visitor's Center on Sunday, December 19 at 10 a.m. for a discussion of how a Civil War soldier would have experienced the Christmas of 1864. Location: 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive/ Kennesaw, GA/ 30152. For details, call 770-427-4686, ext. 0 or visit the website at <https://www.nps.gov/kemo/planyourvisit/hours.htm>.

## “Christmas Bells”

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

**I** heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
and wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

**A**nd thought how, as the day had  
come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

**T**ill ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

**T**hen from each black, accursed  
mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

**I**t was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

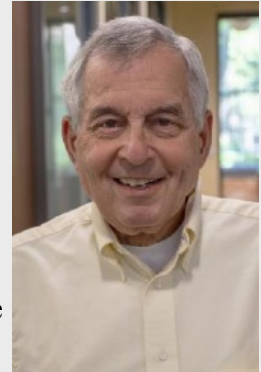
**A**nd in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

**T**hen pealed the bells more loud and  
deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

*Longfellow wrote this poem on Christmas Day 1863 after his son Charles Appleton Longfellow, a Union officer, was severely wounded at the Battle of Mine Run. Set to music years later, the poem is a beloved song of Christmas. 'Peace on Earth!'*

## In January: *Atlanta During the Civil War, A Geographical and Logistical Perspective*

**Sy Goodman** is sure to bring refreshing and multi-dimensional insight to our first meeting of 2022. Since we've reconvened in-person, Sy, a member of our executive committee, has offered fascinating brief speeches about international military conflicts that paralleled our Civil War as a preface to our programs. Behind the scenes, he is working on a prospective ACWRT Civil War Symposium to be held at Georgia Tech this summer. Sy is Regents Professor and Professor of International Affairs and Computing at Georgia Tech where he joined the faculty in 2000. At Tech, he also serves as an adjunct professor of history. His experience and interests are dynamic. Naming just one of many associations, Sy is a National Affiliate of the National Research Council of the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.



## Atlanta Civil War Round Table

### Officers and Executive Committee 2020-2021

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

### At Large Executive Committee Second Year:

**John Miller; Robert Fugate**

### At Large Executive Committee First Year:

**John Ottley; Sy Goodman**