



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

April Meeting

Tuesday, April 12

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, April 7

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 Florentine;
 Desert.

The 1st Modern Intelligence War

Our April speaker, **David A. Welker**, is an historian with the Central Intelligence Agency. He has served the CIA as an intelligence officer for over 35 years. A military analyst and battlefield guide, David has written numerous books and articles on the Civil War. His most recent book is *The Cornfield: Antietam's Bloody Turning Point*, published in 2020. There is a related blog "Antietam's Cornfield" at antietamscornfield.com. David has been featured on many Civil War History podcasts and TV and radio programs.



His other books are 2002's *Tempest at Ox Hill: The Battle of Chantilly*. His first book, published in 1996, is *A Keystone Rebel: The Civil War Diary of Joseph Garey, Hudson's Battery, Mississippi Volunteers*. Come join us April 12, 2022 to learn more from David about the role of intelligence in the Civil War. He holds a master's degree in international affairs from American University and a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Westminster College in Pennsylvania. He lives in Centreville, Virginia with his wife. David's articles and a YouTube channel may be found on his website: <https://www.davidawelker-civilwarhistorian.com>.



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Chaplain Thomas Nelson Conrad,
Confederate Intelligence Officer.
(Photo: Library of Congress)



A DuBose Find: 'Stonewall' Medal

John Dietrichs, Atlanta Civil War Round Table President from 2019-2020, graciously offered a drawing for a door prize or “relic of the month” at all of the meetings he led. Sadly, our in-person meetings were rudely interrupted by the pandemic in April of 2019. John had intended to offer this handsome medal from the Beverly DuBose Jr. collection in May 2019. Recovered from the 5th DuBose Collection Room in 2019, this intricately designed medal of “Stonewall” Jackson was cast for the Soldiers and Sailors Hall of Fame at New York University in 1972. It depicts a statue of General Jackson designed for the Hall of Fame by noted British-American sculptor Bryant Baker. The sculpture, installed at the Hall of Fame in 1955, was removed in 2017. We hope you’ll enter the drawing for this medal at our April 12 meeting. Good luck!

Rides for Members, Carpools

A few of our members are in need of rides to meetings. Others have expressed an interest in Car Pools. There are immediate needs around Northwest Atlanta. Those in need of a ride and all who would like to offer a ride or join a carpool are encouraged to email Carol Willey at carolwilley@bellsouth.net.

Board Votes to Remain at the Capital City Club

After the **Capital City Club assured** no increases to its current charge of \$50 per meal for the upcoming campaign year of 2022-2023, the board voted to remain for another year. It is a relief that we will not face cost increases next year. Further, since the cost of meals went up in February, the board has not been able to find a better situation. We have looked! As we have discussed at recent meetings and in this newsletter, the CCC faced shortfalls in income during COVID and now faces inflation. Indeed, all catering and event venues face these challenges.

When the CCC communicated their need to increase fees earlier this year, Tim Whalen and John Ottley negotiated them down from \$58 per person to \$50 per person for food costs. The CCC agreed to hold our prices there through June 2022. For each meeting, we also pay a \$200 A-V equipment fee and a \$250 bar fee (if we do not meet the minimum of \$500 in bar sales). In other words, even with members paying \$50 each, the ACWRT now faces a small loss at each meeting.

Membership indicated in a survey no desire to leave CCC unless a comparable venue could be found at a better price. Membership also indicated that the meal and social time are just as important as the speaker. As for location, no one area of the city was universally preferred, but a downtown location was most popular among those surveyed.

Based on those responses, the board began to search for an alternative venue within the parameters voiced by membership. An event broker sent out a request for bids to dozens of event venues in the city. We also made direct inquiry to numerous meeting facilities that fit the membership's preferences, including hotels, museums, and other conference facilities.



President Mary-Elizabeth presides at our March meeting. In this article, she explains the Round Table Board's decision to stay at the Capital City Club. (Photo: Gould Hagler)

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We Will Remain at the Capital City Club (From Page 3)

The results of that search have highlighted the high costs that all caterers and event venues now face. One conference facility would not commit to a recurring monthly meeting. Multiple “comparable venues” indicated that they could not even come close to the deal we get from the CCC. Some simply declined to submit an offer for that reason. The closest offer as of our March meeting was from a downtown hotel that could offer us \$65 per person food cost plus a \$15 fee for valet parking. Since then, only one offer better than that one has come in from an event venue that could offer us \$55 per person food costs and \$10-15 parking fee per car, costlier than our current venue.

At the same time, the board had asked the CCC what their fees would be for the 2022-2023 campaign year. In mid-March, the CCC replied that they would offer us a total package that will hold the per person cost to \$50 per person. Your board has voted to accept that offer and has informed the CCC of that decision.

Again, many thanks to all who have assisted in this process of discernment, investigation, and negotiation. We all can look forward to another year of enjoyable meetings and excellent service at the Capitol City Club.

Atlanta Civil War Round Table President Dr. Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, DVM



From Left: John Miller and his wife Jane sponsored speaker Tracy Revels for our March meeting at the Capital City Club.



With Guide Michael Shaffer, March 6 tour participants look into the ravine at Pickett's Mill battlefield. Here Union forces sustained approximately 1,600 casualties within 30 to 45 minutes. (Photo: John Miller)

March Tour: Tracing Union Defeat at Pickett's Mill

If the **combatants** who were present for the May 27, 1864 Battle of Pickett's Mill were to return to the scene today, they would be able to recognize it, said historian Michael Shaffer as he launched our March tour. On this extraordinarily well preserved battlefield, the second in a trio of battles was fought in what Federals named and Confederates also came to call the "Hell Hole," a territory of ravines and ridges that extended from the May 25 battle at New Hope Church, through Pickett's Mill to the third battle at Dallas, May 28. Days of hard and bloody fighting brought two Confederate victories, followed by a Union victory at Dallas.

Union General **William T. Sherman** had moved into Georgia weeks earlier following Union victory in the Battles for Chattanooga. His objective was to capture Atlanta and cut off its essential supply lines to the Confederacy. Engagements with the Confederacy, led by Confederate General Joseph Johnston, began near the Tennessee border. Federals maneuvered around Johnston's forces, compelling him to move south past Dalton and toward Resaca.

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Tracing the Union Defeat at Pickett's Mill (From Page 5)

The **Battle of Resaca** at the Western and Atlantic Railroad on the north bank of the Oostanaula River, from May 14 to 15, was the first major engagement of the Atlanta Campaign. The bloody battle was not a victory for either the Union or the Confederacy. It claimed an estimated 2,800 casualties on both sides. After Resaca Johnston moved south to Adairsville and nearby Cassville. Sherman then moved west toward Paulding County where the battle at New Hope Church followed on May 25. Sherman misjudged the Confederate presence at New Hope Church and ordered an attack on what transpired to be well fortified, Confederate earthworks. A Confederate victory



At the Pickett's Mill upper Wheat Field, Michael describes the deadly effectiveness of Confederate Captain Thomas J. Key's Artillery. (Photo: John Miller)

resulted with an estimated 1,665 Union casualties to an approximate 400 Confederate casualties. Following the defeat, Sherman initiated a withdrawal and aimed General Oliver O. Howard's men toward the Confederate right flank at Pickett's Mill. The Union officers thought the area around the Pickett gristmill was open and vulnerable but Confederate General Patrick Cleburne's division was entrenched and ready.

After **Michael's introduction** to the battle outside the Park Visitors Center and Museum, we walked through an area bordering the battlefield ravine and stopped at the "Wheat Field," the location used by Captain Thomas J. Key, Commander of the Confederacy's Helena Artillery, and his gunners. When the battle opened, Cleburne ordered Key to move two howitzers to the field. The 12-pound guns, placed to enfilade the ravine below, were particularly "instrumental" to victory at Pickett's Mill, said Michael. Key and his gunmen held a topographic advantage. Union losses in the thick underbrush of the ravine below, where men fell and flags ripped, were devastating. Thomas Key was a respected newspaper publisher when he joined the war at the age of 33 as a member of the 15th Arkansas Infantry. He had hesitated to leave his young family for service in the Confederacy, though he was a staunch secessionist.

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Tracing the Union Defeat at Pickett's Mill (From Page 6)

Key was to write about the war in his diaries and other accounts. He lived to be 77 years old. Death claimed him in 1908. Key recalled Pickett's Mill as a triumphant day during a time when victory for the Confederacy was possible. In a poem of his later years, Key remembered the howitzer: "Oh the young cannon was my bride." Traveling beyond the wheat field, Michael noted that at the time of the Battle, Confederate Lt. Benjamin Pickett, owner of the mill, had died at the Battle of Chickamauga. That May 27, the mill was in the possession of his widow.

Though Union outcomes were grim, Michael said, Union Generals Howard and Thomas J. Wood actually had a "sound battle plan" for Pickett's Mill. The disappearance during the battle of Ohio General Nathaniel McLean and his brigade complicated matters. Michael said that later Howard would "blast" McLean for his failure. Afterwards McLean was relegated to a "backwater theatre in Kentucky." Our tour moved from the wheat field to Federal earthworks, the position of Battery C of the 1st Illinois Light Artillery Regiment. At Pickett's Mill its gun crew of six men, was commanded by the well regarded Captain Mark Prescott.

Particularly Notable for the Confederacy were General Hiram Granbury and his Texas Brigade: the 6th, 7th and 10th Texas Infantry and the 15th, 17th, 18th, 24th and 25th dismounted Texas Cavalry. They faced Colonel William B. Hazen's advancing troops at the top of the ridge near Key's Battery. The two enemy lines at the ravine were only about 20 paces apart. Though the Texans were exposed, they had the advantage of being on the top of the ridge. The Federals were cut down, with several beheaded, by the Texans' insistent fire. The firing continued into the night when Granbury's men also assumed picket duty.



Michael points toward the Federal earthworks

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Tracing the Union Defeat at Pickett's Mill (From Page 7)

The scene after the battle was gruesome. Sergeant Major Gleason of the 15th Ohio wrote, "The battle . . . was decidedly our bloodiest so far. . . . This is surely not war, it is butchery." Estimated casualties stood at 1,600 for the Union and 500 for the Confederacy. Sherman never mentioned this humiliating defeat in military reports or in his memoirs. At the 24th anniversary of the battle, newspaperman and fiction writer Ambrose Bierce wrote in a bitter essay: "There is a class of events which by their very nature, and despite any intrinsic interest that they may possess, are foredoomed to oblivion." An experienced Union combatant when he witnessed the battle, Bierce, 22 then, served as a first lieutenant and topographical engineer on the staff of Colonel Hazen, whom he admired. He had a clear view of the men who faced the Texans from the ravine. Bierce recalled this in the "The Crime at Pickett's Mill," blaming Union Generals Wood and Howard of a "criminal blunder" for sending so many men to their deaths.

Perhaps in part due to the battle's obscurity, deplored by Union veterans after the war, Pickett's Mill is well-preserved today. With Antietam and Perryville, it is one of Michael's favorite battlefields because it still is much as it would have been when the battle was fought. In the 1950s, Atlanta historians Wilbur Kurtz and Beverly Dubose loosely mapped the site. With the Civil War Centennial of the 1960s, interest grew. An area, covering 765 acres in Paulding County, was acquired by the state of Georgia in the years from 1973 until 1981. Pickett's Mill Historic State Park opened in 1990. With safeguarding and study of the battlefield, the men Bierce mourned have been restored from oblivion to memory.



Above: At the ravine where Granbury's Texans faced the federals trapped in the ravine.

Accounts from Bierce and Key

Ambrose Bierce:
The Crime At Pickett's Mill:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/13541/13541-h/13541-h.htm#picketts>

Thomas J. Key from *Two Soldiers: The Campaign Diaries of Thomas J. Key, CSA and Robert J. Campbell, USA* *Entries covering Pickett's Mill were lost but this is interesting.

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015005745800&view=1up&seq=1>

Atlanta Civil War Round Table Tours

Our **April 23 tour of the Utoy Creek Battlefield** with Perry Bennett is filled but we have some standby seats available. Perry is a retired US Army officer who lives on the battlefield and is a wonderful interpreter of its history. Many have never walked this area and this will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about the latter days of the Atlanta campaign and Sherman's final envelopment. This tour will be co-sponsored by the Cobb County Round Table and the Georgia Battlefields Association. Because some members have expressed concern about vehicle security while parked near the Lionel Hampton trailhead, ACWRT Past President Carlton Mullis has volunteered to participate. He has extensive background in law enforcement and will undoubtedly reduce our members' concern. The tour will be free to participants but we encourage contributions to GBA. Here is the link to register for standby: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CADAB22A31-tour7> Please note that historically our standby registrants have been able to join us.



Decatur's Mary Gay House in the 1880s. Mary Gay wrote *Life in Dixie During the War*, an influential account of the Atlanta Campaign. (Photo: <https://www.marygayhouse.org/>)

For our **May 7 Battle of Decatur tour** with author David Allison registration will begin in early April. We will send a registration announcement. This will be an especially interesting examination of this underreported aspect of the larger Battle of Atlanta which was taking place a relatively short distance to the west. Much of Union General McPherson's Army of the Tennessee logistics support was at risk, and without the determination of some very resolved Union soldiers, the course of the Atlanta campaign may have been altered. We will commence at Agnes Scott college and walk the advance of Confederate General Joseph Wheeler's dismounted cavalry northward through the city. In addition to our regular co-sponsorship with the Cobb County Round Table and the Georgia Battlefields Association, this tour will be co-hosted by the Dekalb History Center. The Center will include a tour of the old courthouse and its most recent exhibits. The tour is free to participants though contributions to the Dekalb History Center will be encouraged.

John Miller, At Large Executive Committee Second Year



One of the cannons used during the Battle of Pickett's Mill is on display in the museum. For ACWRT's March 5 tour there was a firing demonstration. The cannon is on loan to the park from the Atlanta History Center.

Upcoming Educational Events at Pickett's Mill

The Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site is open 7 days per week, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Access to the trails on these days is available with paid historic site admission or with the historic sites annual pass. The museum is open Friday – Sunday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Guests can visit the site then for a \$5 daily pass. The trails are available for self-guided hikes Monday – Thursday by paying a \$5 per vehicle parking fee at the collection box in front of the museum or with a state park annual pass or historic site annual pass displayed on the guest vehicle. The entrance to the rentable group shelter and the playground is located on Hiram Acworth Highway. The playground is available 9 a.m. -5 p.m. with a paid daily ParkPass or an annual ParkPass. The enclosed group shelter is available for rent with reservations. For questions about access and special programs, call 770-443-7850. Several special programs are scheduled through April and May:

Pickett's Mill Battlefield Historic Site:
4432 Mt Tabor Church Rd, Dallas, GA 30157
<https://gastateparks.org/PickettsMillBattlefield>

Soldier's Life Saturday, April 9: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Kennesaw Mountain Camp #3 Sons of Union Veterans will present a Federal infantry demonstration. Cost: \$3 to \$6.

Ohio 125th Drill and Encampment Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The Drill Regiment will encamp at the historic wheat field. They will demonstrate tactical drills

and firing. "Camp Life" will also include campfire cooking, music and other historic activities of the Federal soldier. Cost: \$3 to \$6.

Soldier's Life Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This Federal Artillery demonstration will include drilling and cannon firing. Cost: \$3 to \$6.

Battle of Pickett's Mill Remembered Saturday, May 28, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. On this day there will be a formal memorial service and wreath laying ceremony to honor those who served and perished during the Battle of Pickett's Mill. Cost \$3 to \$6.

Park Preservation and ‘March to the Sea’ Events

This **Saturday** American Battlefield Trust is sponsoring its annual Park Day, April 9. Park Day will include several sites across Georgia. Volunteers may help with maintenance of these historic places. Historic site support groups or managers may register sites for participation on the trust’s website: <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day>. Connor Townsend at ctownsend@battlefields.org or 410-610-9226 is also available to register sites.

Volunteers may register with these site managers:

Prater’s Mill, northeast of Dalton, 9 a.m.:
Melanie Chapman business@pratersmill.org
706-694-6455;

Dunagan Cemetery, West of Dalton, 8 a.m.:
Steve Hall tunnelhill@windstream.net;
706-673-7987;

Resaca Confederate Cemetery 9 a.m.:
johnbiddy@bellsouth.net; 706-581-5366



Entrance to the Resaca Confederate Cemetery. (Photo Jordon Fuquea. April 16, 2018)

Check the trust’s website for additional locations: <https://www.battlefields.org/events/park-day>

Battles Revisited for Old Clinton War Days, April 30 and May 1

The **Old Clinton Historic District** in Middle Georgia will again host reenactments of the July 1864 Battle of Sunshine Church and the November 1864 Battle of Griswoldville. On both Saturday and Sunday, gates open at 9 a.m. and reenactments begin at 2:05 p.m. Saturday’s activities conclude with a memorial service at the Methodist Church Cemetery. Before the reenactments, tour the historic buildings, including the McCarthy-Pope House, the oldest house in town, which will have displays relating to the Griswold Pistol Factory and assorted relics. Food, including items using Civil War recipes, will be available; and crafts of the era will be demonstrated. Proceeds for the charges of \$5 for adults and \$3 for ages 6-18 are used to help preserve the historic district. Children 5 and under may attend free of charge. Old Clinton is 12 miles northeast of Macon, just a block northwest of US 129. For more information and directions see <http://www.oldclinton.org/war-days-3/>.

Presented with thanks to the Georgia Battlefields Association: http://georgiabattlefields.org/pdf_files/GBAnews2204.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3YuznLBbl3pnUXuPmWzIFicOezPxdi_fS_1CjJ1ZXlGznPMi53GhMpulM

Zoom Programs from the Lockdown Year

Last year Immediate Past President **Carlton Mullis** pioneered the use of remote meetings for the Atlanta Civil War Round Table's 2020-2021 Campaign Year when the Pandemic lockdown canceled our live meetings. Many enjoyed the Zoom meetings. There was a wonderful array of speakers. We are hoping to offer videos of our live meetings but the technical challenges have been daunting. We are still working on it. Here we offer a sampling of our Zoom meetings from last year. This format was impossible to edit so the recordings seem rough. To assist you in cutting the banter that preceded the programs, the time of the program's introduction within the recording is included. Passcodes for each meeting are also presented. Simply copy and paste the meeting **passcode** and use it where requested. To find the beginning of a presentation **pull your curser to the program** based on the time elapse estimate.

February 9, 2021: Author Caroline Janey offered a program based on her book *Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation*. **Passcode:** 7&pW=SZx; The program begins 15 minutes into the recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/M3oWu6XlajznH1TSzl-v-rdZRgR787_V-mROLKRnNXDA2ms75DplCaeemzxEfcA.r6SefN7LOLYpcUvs

March 9, 2021: Author Niels Eichhorn offered a program based on his book *The Civil War Battles of Macon*. **Passcode:** .0CwuTHC, Program begins 17.44 minutes into the recording.
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/t0uYhjsWTKdjfegV0QMMyeCLQ6j57faNkOKB9-twcHI_cDuDK1hbOiBSdmSbSkvl.eSv29zCWxtEj1U_p

April 13, 2021: Author Matt Hulbert offered a program based on his book *How Civil War Bushwhackers Became Gunslingers in the American West*. **Passcode:** 4YN7UwG@. Program begins 10 minutes into the recording
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8msn55vl6tHtETPzwt24lsTaHBvKszCyDGxq1ae0h9WYtii7YU8GN0mrO6ekrNQL9V_UScadztVaIZ4I

May 11 2021: Author Cory Pfarr offered a program based on his book *Longstreet at Gettysburg: A Critical Reassessment*. **Passcode:** 4YN7UwG@. Program begins at recording beginning.
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/8msn55vl6tHtETPzwt24lsTaHBvKszCyDGxq1ae0h9WYtii7YU8GN0mrO6ekrNQL9V_UScadztVaIZ4I

June 8, 2021: Author Hampton Newsom offered a program based on his 2020 Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award winning book, *The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864*. **Passcode:** U7u\$FUtL. Program starts at the beginning of the recording
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/LsPjbsTQZa-4OpLjtJolYgl69m74DMvb-aNyOCHG-aMSXbcfnpGs_M7Aen-91tho.C_KYFsrTjKHNPi8



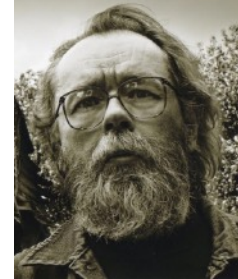
Florida in the War

Most have forgotten that Florida was a Southern state with an agricultural economy before and during the Civil War. Florida was the third state to secede from the Union and it became heavily invested in the Confederacy, said our March speaker Tracy Revels as she introduced an energetic program focusing on the experience of Florida's women through the years of the Civil War. While the phenomena of war was a burden to upper class and cracker women, the enslaved hoped it presented an opportunity. (Photo of Tracy Revels at the podium: Gould Hagler)

Exploring the 'Hardtack Regiment'

How many of us began our interest in the War remembering an ancestor who served in it? Mark H.

Dunkelman descends from a soldier in the 154th New York Volunteer Infantry, the "Hardtack Regiment," which marched through Georgia. His approach to the study of Civil War history dates from childhood, when his father and aunt passed along stories and



relics of their grandfather. Mark was gripped with a passion to learn more about Corporal John Langhans' regiment. He has connected with more than 1,300 descendants of members of the 154th New York and has located and copied more than 1,700 wartime letters, 27 diaries, portraits of 281 regiment members, and other material. These became the basis for his six well-received books. Mark's talk on May 10 will focus on his fifth book, *Marching with Sherman*.

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