



# 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

### May Meeting

Tuesday, May 10

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 (\$50 per ticket)  
to Tim Whalen:  
P.O. Box 2355  
Griffin, GA 30224  
Reservations must be made by  
8 p.m. Thursday, May 5

### Meeting Location

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

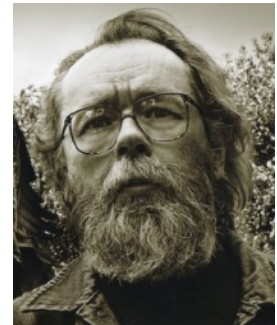
*\* The Cash Bar is now credit and  
debit card only. CCC will no  
longer accept cash at the bar.*

### Menu

Salad;  
Entrée: Filet Mignon;  
Desert.

## Marching With Sherman

**H**ow many of us began our interest in the War remembering an ancestor who served in it? Historian Mark H. Dunkelman descends from a soldier in the 154<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteer Infantry, the "Hardtack Regiment," which marched through Georgia. His unique approach to the study of Civil War history dates from childhood, when his father and aunt passed along stories and relics of their grandfather. The tales and mementoes of Corporal John Langhans gripped Mark with a passion to learn more about his great-grandfather's regiment. Through a lifetime of study this has never abated. Mark has connected with more than 1,300 descendants of members of the 154<sup>th</sup> New York. He has located and copied more than 1,700 wartime letters, 27 diaries, portraits of 281 members of the regiment, and a mass of other material. These have served as the basis for six well-received books and dozens of articles. Mark's talk to the Atlanta Civil War Round Table on May 10, 2022 will focus on his fifth book, *Marching with Sherman: Through Georgia and the Carolinas with the 154<sup>th</sup> New York*. Also esteemed for his many Civil War paintings and murals, Mark is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of design.





General William T. Sherman  
(National Archives Portraits)

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**‘I can make this March,  
and I will make  
Georgia Howl!’**

**W.T. Sherman**

In a Telegram to General Grant (1864)

\*William T. Sherman, *Sherman's Civil War: Selected Correspondence of William T. Sherman, 1860-1865*, eds. Jean V. Berlin and Brooks D. Simpson (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1999), Page 731.

## Crawford to Receive GHS Honor

**O**ur May 10 meeting will feature a special event. Longtime Round Table member and Trivia Master, Charlie Crawford, will accept the 2021 John Macpherson Berrien Lifetime Achievement Award from our special guest, W.

Todd Groce, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Georgia Historical Society. Now President Emeritus of the Georgia Battlefields Association, Charlie became a trustee of the GBA in 2000. He has been editor of its newsletter since 2001. Charlie also served on the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Advisory Board from 2015 to 2021. In 2018, GHS

recognized Charlie with the Sarah

Nichols Pinckney Volunteer Award. He also received the Civil War Trust Chairman's Award for Excellence in Preservation in 2011. On a personal note, Mark Dunkelman, a good friend of Charlie's, will deliver our program. Charlie has been exempted from his duties as trivia master for the evening. We will miss his revelatory questions this month but we expect Charlie will make up for it in June with an especially challenging quiz.



At Our November 2021 Meeting: Charlie Crawford, Center, visits with Andrea and Bill Dodd.





Our guide, Military Historian Perry Bennett, far right, delineates corps positions as we visit the rolling Union entrenchments at present-day Lionel Hampton Park. (Photo John Miller)

## *Exploring Utoy Creek's Significance*

**A**iming at East Point's two rail lines, Federal forces moved south after the battles of Atlanta on July 22, 1864 and Ezra Church six days later. They found a rough topography and misleading indicators at Utoy Creek. Though sounds of trains were heard as if in close proximity, the troops were actually four miles from East Point. Ultimately, on August 6, 1864, the Federals failed to accomplish General William T. Sherman's aim of cutting off the Confederacy's rail lines south of Atlanta. Sherman and Union General John Schofield both identified Utoy Creek as a minor battle afterwards. It was "not minor" our guide Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Perry Bennett said as we approached the battlefield. It was dismissed as minor because news of failure might have influenced the presidential campaign of 1864. Voters were weary of the War and it seemed President Lincoln would lose to former General George B. McClellan. Union generals wanted Lincoln's administration to continue for a successful end to their campaigns. News after the battle of Utoy Creek was discouraging. Confederates, entrenched in rough terrain, managed a defense that frustrated a Union victory. Though besieged, Atlanta remained in Confederate hands.



Perry Bennett delineates the battlefield. (Photo John Miller)

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## *April Tour: Understanding Utoy Creek* (From Page 3)

**P**erry, who grew up near the battlefield and first found cannon balls there as a boy, lives nearby. A Military Historian, he crafted a tour for us particularly rich with information and insight. For years, Perry noted as we approached some well-preserved Union entrenchments at Lionel Hampton Park, the Battle of Peachtree Creek, Stoneman's Raid, and the battles of Ezra Church and Utoy Creek all came to be perceived as elements of the Battle of Atlanta, not battles unto themselves. Artist and historian Wilbur Kurtz corrected that when he started "quantifying the battles." A Midwesterner, Kurtz became interested in the Andrew's Raid of 1862, generally more well-known now as the Great Locomotive Chase. Kurtz interviewed a number of the Union raiders who captured the train, The General. Studying the chase, Kurtz also interviewed the locomotive's Southern conductor, Captain William Fuller. Fuller had prevented the Federals from taking the Confederate train north to Union lines. Later, Kurtz married Fuller's daughter Annie Laurie and moved to Atlanta where he continued to research the events of the Atlanta Campaign. In the years of the early 20th Century, Perry said, Kurtz's research was part of inspiration for a venture to make the area of the Atlanta Campaign into a National Park. All of that changed, Perry explained, with the Veterans Administration Home Act of 1945. The idea of a National Park for the Atlanta Campaign "went away" as the need for real estate for World War II veterans became a priority. The history of the Utoy Creek battle was thus further obscured. Yet, on our tour we encountered well preserved areas of the battlefield. The Union entrenchments at current day Lionel Hampton Park and Confederate fortifications at Cascade Springs Nature Preserve remain.



**At Lionel Hampton Park Cobb Roundtable President Mark Randle and our President Mary-Elizabeth Ellard pause at a bridge over Utoy Creek. The tour was also sponsored by Georgia Battlefields Assoc.**

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At Cascade Springs Nature Preserve, we reconvene near an historic marker featuring Perry's account of the August 6, 1864 battle that took place at the site. (Photo John Miller)

## *April Tour: Understanding Utoy Creek* (From Page 4)

**A**mong the illustrations Perry used for our tour was a recently acquired copy of the “Blue Map.” The map, used by Sherman, explains much of the Union dilemma at Utoy Creek. “It does not indicate topography,” said Perry. “This is no go terrain.” The battle encompassed hills, ravines and a winding, rocky creek. The Federals were not prepared for this. Adding to this difficulty was a leadership conflict in the days leading up to the heart of the battle on August 6. Sherman’s general John Schofield, commander of the Army of the Ohio, was in charge of the Atlanta Campaign’s operation of breaking the rail lines. His authority was contested by Major General William Jackson Palmer, who felt he outranked Schofield. Sherman backed Schofield and Palmer resigned. Schofield continued in the Atlanta campaign and Palmer was reassigned. The firing and fighting at the battle sites were fierce. Perry mentioned canon balls that still scar some of the local trees. Over the years residents in this part of Southwest Atlanta and artifact hunters have been richly rewarded with minie balls, buttons, buckles and more. Not too long ago, Perry found a cannon ball in the waterfall at Cascade Springs.



Michael Schaffer at a 19th Century road within Adams Park.

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## *April Tour: Understanding Utoy Creek* (From Page 5)

**L**ooking at the marker Perry composed for the nature park, it seems that there were two movements of the battle at the present day nature center on August 6, 1864. In the first, a Federal advance at 8:30 a.m. resulted in 850 casualties for the Union forces, who were trapped by Confederate Tennesseans and Kentuckians in a horseshoe valley. The Colors of the U.S. 8th Tennessee and the 123rd Indiana Infantry were also lost to Tyler's Confederate Tennessee Brigade. Afterwards, before noon, a "spirited attack" was launched by the Federals with some of Hascall's Division, General Stickland's and Colonel Swayne's



**Confederate entrenchments at current day Adams Park Nature Preserve (Photo John Miller)**

Brigades and the 25th Michigan Infantry. Another 150 casualties were sustained by Union forces that midday and afternoon and the Colors of the 25th Michigan were captured. At 6 p.m. a torrential rainstorm struck and the attack was discontinued. On the following day, Private Benjamin Van Raalte of the 25th Michigan recovered his unit Colors. He was nominated for the Medal of Honor. The marker, composed by Perry and placed by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Departments Georgia and South Carolina, was dedicated on the 150th anniversary of the battle in 2014. Beyond the park, many of the Federal combatants who died at Utoy Creek remain in unmarked graves on private property, said Perry. The Confederate victory at Utoy Creek would not spare Atlanta for long. The Union won the campaign in Jonesbrough on September 1, 1864.

**F**or those who survived the battle at Utoy Creek, the place claimed a lasting resonance. Of a return trip in May of 1912, Colonel Lot D. Young of Kentucky's famous Orphan Brigade wrote that he recognized "more distinctly than any other place" the battlefield as it was at Utoy Creek. He recalled bathing there in the waterfall and enjoying "the only refreshing bath for several days." The battle sites of beautiful Utoy Creek in Southwest Atlanta still recall the days of preparation and combat. Structures left by Union and Confederate forces are palpable reminders.





United States War Department, 1865: Map Illustrating the Siege of Atlanta, July 19th, 1864 to August 26, 1864. Decatur is indicated. Click the link for a more detailed look: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3924a.cws00039>

## *Decatur Battlefield: Final Tour of the Campaign Year*

**T**here is still time to join Saturday's tour of the Decatur battlefield, our last tour for 2021-2022. This will be an especially interesting examination of an underreported aspect of the larger Battle of Atlanta, which took place simultaneously, 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 might have been altered. We have seven available places. To register inquire at [carolwilley@bellsouth.net](mailto:carolwilley@bellsouth.net). 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 Cobb County Roundtable and the Georgia Battlefields Association, this tour will be co-hosted by the DeKalb County History Center. We will include a tour of the Old Courthouse and its most recent exhibits. The tour is free though contributions to the DeKalb History Center are encouraged. The tour begins at 10 a.m. and ends around 2. We will have lunch in the Old Courthouse.



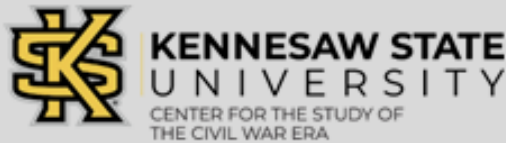
## 6th Annual Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar

**Featuring: Brian Steel Wills  
Richard McMurry on Joseph Johnston  
and Will Greene on Petersburg**



**Sponsorship: \$275  
Table (6): \$275  
Individual: \$55  
Kennesaw Corps  
Members: \$45**

**Registration Required**



**Room 400, KSU Center  
Kennesaw, Ga.,  
Sat., June 18, 2022  
Starting at 9:00 AM**

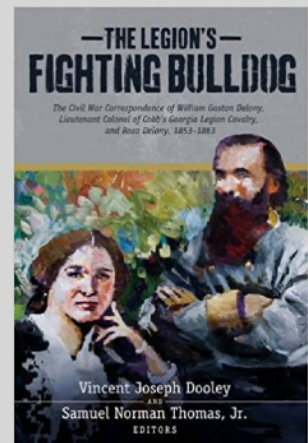
## Sixth Annual Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar

**T**he Kennesaw State University Center for the Study of the Civil War Era has scheduled its 6th Annual Vince Dooley Leadership Seminar. Look for information and registration to be available on the Kennesaw calendar soon.

[https://calendar.kennesaw.edu/event/](https://calendar.kennesaw.edu/event/5th_annual_vince_dooley_leadership_seminar)

[5th\\_annual\\_vince\\_dooley\\_leadership\\_seminar](https://calendar.kennesaw.edu/event/5th_annual_vince_dooley_leadership_seminar). In the meantime, Brian Wills, Director of The Center for the Study of the Civil War Era invites inquiries at 470-578-2966 or at [bwills2@kennesaw.edu](mailto:bwills2@kennesaw.edu).

Vince Dooley's 2017 book, *The Legion's Fighting Bulldog: The Civil War Correspondence of William Gaston Delony, Lieutenant Colonel of Cobb's Georgia Legion Cavalry, and Rosa Delony, 1853-1863*, offers a compelling look at Georgia during the Civil War.





**The American Battlefield Trust** has been filming and releasing new videos of the Atlanta Campaign on its YouTube Channel. You'll find interesting new perspectives and insights here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/AmericanBattlefieldTrust/videos>

**The Chickamauga** and Chattanooga Civil War Round Table will host a Dalton Civil War Tour with Bobby Jenkins, this Saturday, May 7. The tour begins at the historic Huff House in Dalton at 1 p.m. and ends at 4 p.m. For further information, see the Dalton Round Table Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/329344228425502>

**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. For information call: 770-443-7850. Look for these programs soon:

**Battle of Pickett's Mill Remembered** Saturday, May 28, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. 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 is \$3 to \$6. **158th Anniversary**, Battle of Pickett's Mill will be observed Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Observe Federal and Confederate infantry drills; experience cannon firings taking place; and explore civilian life at Pickett's Mill's 1850's cabin. Cost is \$3 - \$6.

## *Jackson, Early in the Valley*

**To explain that Gary Gallagher** is the John L. Nau III Professor in the History of the American Civil War at the University of Virginia just doesn't fully convey his stature.

What can one say of one of the world's preeminent scholars of the War? Come cap off our year June 14, 2022 with this engaging historian. The campaigns waged in the Shenandoah Valley by Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson



and Jubal A. Early have inspired dramatically different sets of images. Popular perceptions of the two Valley campaigns remain highly favorable to Jackson and more critical of Early. The ultimate results of the operations are beyond debate-- Jackson emerged victorious and Early did not. This lecture will examine available resources, quality of Federal opponents, tactical efficiency, and the degree to which each man accomplished his strategic goals to assess how Early's effort stands up against Jackson's. Gary is the author or editor of more than forty books..

### **Atlanta Civil War Round Table**

#### **Officers and Executive Committee 2021-2022**

<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**