



# Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

March 2014

611th Meeting

Leon McElveen, Editor

## March Meeting

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

Please mail your reservation check for  
\$33.00 per person to:

**David Floyd**  
**4696 Kellogg Drive, SW**  
**Lilburn, GA 30047- 4408**

TO REACH DAVID NO LATER THAN NOON  
ON THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE MEETING

E-mail / telephone reservations not accepted

**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014  
**Time:** Cocktails: .....5:30 pm  
Dinner: .....7:00 pm  
**Place:** Capital City Club - Downtown  
7 John Portman Blvd.  
**Price:** \$33.00 per person  
**Program:** **Gettysburg Myths**  
Ed Bearss

If you made reservations in February, you automatically have the same for March, unless you let David Floyd or I know. (Read as: if you don't show up, you lose your payment).

## Iced Out in February

If you showed up for our regularly scheduled February meeting or its rescheduled date, you probably found the meal less than fulfilling and the program somewhat disappointing. Between the icy weather and our speaker's commitments, we could not come up with satisfactory alternate date. We hope to have Buck back in the future.

## The One, the Only, Ed Bearss

Our speaker in March will be the inimitable Ed Bearss. Ed is famous for many things. Among them is that he is one of our only two Honorary Members (the other being Bud Robertson). He is also known for being a United States Marine Corps veteran of World War II, a military historian and author known for his work on the American Civil War and World War II eras and is a popular tour guide of historic battlefields. Ed began his tenure with the National Park Service in September 1955 and retired as its Chief Historian in 1995 and remains its Chief Historian Emeritus.

As he enters his ninth decade, Ed has become the consummate tour guide, bringing history alive to visitors of all knowledge levels, revealing encyclopedic stores of memory and enormous personal energy, but always with rich and colorful anecdotes. A *Washington Post* reporter described his style as "Homeric monologues." The *Wall Street Journal* wrote that he evokes "almost hallucinatory sensations." Historian Dennis Frye said a "battlefield [tour] with Ed Bearss [is a] transcendental experience."

Ed, as only he can, will take us on a verbal battlefield tour of Gettysburg as he addresses some of the many myths about the battle that refuse to go away. Among these are: the battle was fought over shoes; the first day was not a large battle; Gen. Reynolds was killed by a sharpshooter; Gen. Buford had Spencer repeating rifles on the first day and that Pickett's Charge was the largest, most decisive, and most consequential charge of the war.

Don't miss this chance to spend an evening with one of our nation's living national treasures, Ed Bearss, the "Pied Piper of History".

**Upcoming Programs**

**April 8, 2014** ..... Edward Bonekemper III  
*The Overland Campaign*

**May 13, 2014** ..... Brad Quinlin  
*The Atlanta Campaign*

**June 10, 2014** ..... James Gindlesperger  
*The End of the CSS Alabama*



**Upcoming Events**

**March 8 - 9, 2014:** Living history weekend at the Andersonville National Historic Site in Andersonville. Free. [nps.gov/ande](http://nps.gov/ande)

**March 13, 2014:** Lecture, "That Which Survives," re-establishing families after the war, at the Atlanta Cyclorama in Grant Park in Atlanta. 7 pm. Free. [atlantacyclorama.org](http://atlantacyclorama.org)

**March 15, 2014:** Talk, "'Assault Rifles' of the Civil War" Special exhibit," at the Fort McAllister Historic Park, Richmond Hill. 11 am. Free with park admission. 912.727.2339.

**March 21 - 22, 2014:** Kennesaw State Civil War Center Symposium. *1864: The Western Theater*. Jack Davis, Richard McMurry, Steve Woodworth, Jim Ogden and Craig Symonds. [kennesaw.edu/civilwarera/calendar.shtml](http://kennesaw.edu/civilwarera/calendar.shtml)

**March 27 - 30, 2014:** Clarksville TN Civil War Round Table information - *150th Anniversary Tour of the Atlanta Campaign*. For more info. email J.T. Thompson of the Lotz House at [tt@lotzhouse.com](mailto:tt@lotzhouse.com), or Greg Biggs at [Biggsq@charter.net](mailto:Biggsq@charter.net) or call - (931)217-4265.

**April 11 - 13, 2014:** Kennesaw State Civil War Center Tour. Corinth and Brice's Crossroads. [www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera/](http://www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera/)

**April 12, 2014:** Georgia Tech Civil War Symposium - [www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar](http://www.hts.gatech.edu/civilwar) for information and registration or contact John Miller for information [canoe4ever@gmail.com](mailto:canoe4ever@gmail.com) No cost for this symposium, but please register.

**May 8, 2014:** *Sam Watkins 150th Anniversary Tour of The North Georgia Campaign*. led by Tom Cartwright and Ranger Lee White. Watch for upcoming reservations info.

**Annual Spring Bus Field Trip**

Our Spring bus field trip will be Saturday, May 3. It will be led by nationally known guide, Tom Cartwright and Chickamauga Ranger Lee White. This will be a first-time tour of the North Georgia Campaign from Ringgold Gap to the Dead Angle at Kennesaw Mountain as recounted by Private Sam Watkins in his famous diary. We depart from Kennesaw at 7:30 am returning by 6:30 pm. Price of \$79 includes chartered bus, two guides, maps, lunch, snacks, plus a complimentary copy of Jim Miles' tour book, *Fields Of Glory*. This tour will be for members only, as it is expected to quickly sell out. To sign up, send a separate check made out to: CWRT Atlanta for \$79 to David Floyd (address on page 1) or sign up at our March 11 meeting.

**Invited Guests**

We have had a number of guests show up at meetings with the impression that the event is free. If you invite someone make sure that they understand that, if you are not paying for them, they will need to pay for the meeting (\$33.00).

**150 Years Ago**

**12 March 1864:** Nathaniel Banks [US] begins the Red River Campaign

**9 March 1864:** Ulysses S. Grant promoted to Lieutenant General and given command of all active United States forces.

**26 March 1864:** Major General James Birdseye McPherson assumes command of the Army of the Tennessee

**Officers for the 2013 - 2014 Campaign:**

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