



# Battle Lines

*Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta*

Founded 1949

March 2016

631st Meeting

Leon McElveen, Editor

## March Meeting

Reservations Are Required

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR DINNER  
RESERVATION CHECK OF **\$36.00** PER  
PERSON TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

**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 and telephone reservations will  
not be accepted

**Date:** Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
**Time:** Cocktails: 5:30 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
**Place:** Capital City Club - Downtown  
7 John Portman Blvd.  
**Price:** \$36.00 per person  
**Program:** Jeffry Wert  
**Gen. James Longstreet: The  
Confederacy's Most Controversial  
Soldier**

## Gen. James Longstreet: The Confederacy's Most Controversial Soldier

Our March speaker will be Jeffry Wert. Jeffry is a long time friend of the Round Table and has visited us several times before.

His topic for the March meeting will be the man Robert E. Lee called "my war horse." In his biography of Longstreet, Wert makes a strong case for him as the best corps commander on either side of the Civil War. In his assessment he terms Longstreet a superb battle captain and a masterful tactician, who clearly recognized the limitations of the offensive under mid-19th century conditions. For Longstreet, Gettysburg in particular was not an opportunity, but a mistake. Wert argues convincingly that events vindicated Longstreet's opposition to Lee's insistence on repeatedly attacking the strong Union positions. Longstreet also recognized more clearly than most of his Confederate contemporaries that war was not an absolute. He accepted the political consequences of military defeat; his reconciliation with the restored Union brought him the open contempt of irreconcilables like Jubal Early. The resulting controversies obscured Longstreet's military reputation. Be there in March to hear a balanced view of the career of one of America's great soldiers.

## Eric Wisnia in February

Rabbi Wisnia presented a great program at the February meeting. He brought to light certain topics not discussed openly in today's history lessons. Hopefully you enjoyed his energy and enthusiasm, and maybe learned something new about the politics and times of the Civil War.

## Menu for March Meeting

- Greek Iceberg Salad, Onion, Cucumber, Cherry Tomato, Feta, Red Wine Vinaigrette,
- Parmesan Crusted Chicken Breast, Basil Pesto, Grilled Polenta, Vegetable
- Tiramisu

**Upcoming Programs**

**April 12, 2016** ..... Earl Hess  
*A New Look at the Battle of Ezra Church*

**May 10, 2016**.....Gould Hagler  
*The Message and the Medium: Confederate Monuments in Georgia and Alabama*

**June 14, 2016** .....Tim Smith  
 RICHARD BARKSDALE HARWELL BOOK AWARD  
*Difficult and Broken Ground: The Terrain at Shiloh*



**Upcoming Events**

**March 1 - 31, 2016:** *Paths of Destruction: Sherman's Final Campaign*, South Carolina Confederate Relic Room & Military Museum, 301 Gervais Street, Columbia SC. Exhibit detailing Sherman's final efforts to quell the Confederacy in his army's march through South Carolina. The exhibit focuses on the march's impact on the people of South Carolina and its significance in the development of the concept of total war. Artifacts include Union and Confederate weapons and accoutrements, ammunition, POW pieces, uniforms, excavated relics from locations along Sherman's path, and flags. Highlights of the exhibit are a life-size diorama depicting Columbia in flames. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and first Sunday of each month from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Admission: Adults \$5.00, Seniors (62+) & Military \$4.00, Ages 13-17 \$3.00, Under 13 Free, First Sunday (13+) \$1.00, 803-737-8095, [www.crr.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.crr.sc.gov/Pages/default.aspx) .

**March 12, 2016:** *Kennesaw Mountain Trails Workday* - Saturday, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park GA. Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club is a volunteer organization designed to assist with trail maintenance at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Trained crew leaders lead teams of volunteers on trail work projects throughout the park. Trail building experience is not necessary. Meet at the new parking lot on Old Highway 41. The Park provides all necessary tools and safety equipment. 770-427-4686, [www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org](http://www.kennesawmountaintrailclub.org) (check beforehand concerning possible cancellation due to cold or bad weather).

**Richard B. Harwell Award**

The Civil War Round Table of Atlanta has awarded its 28th annual Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award to David A. Powell for his book, *The Chickamauga Campaign - Glory or the Grave: The Breakthrough, the Union Collapse, and the Defense of Horseshoe Ridge, September 20, 1863*. This work is the second book of a planned trilogy on the Chickamauga Campaign. Powell is the first two-time recipient of the Harwell Award. In 2011 he was recognized by the Round Table for his 2010 book on the same campaign, *Failure in the Saddle: Nathan B. Forrest, Joe Wheeler and the Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign*.

Previous winners include Jeffry Wert, Earl Hess, Gary Gallagher, William C. Davis, James I. "Bud" Robertson, James McPherson, Brian Steel Wills, Allen Guelzo and Russell S. Bonds. Powell will speak at the September 2016 meeting of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table and will be presented with the award at that time.

Other finalists for the 2016 award were Earl Hess for *The Battle of Ezra Church* and Donald Frazier for *Blood on the Bayou*.

**Collector's Tables at March Meeting**

At the March meeting there will be an opportunity to share some of your favorite items with other Round Table members. If you would like to bring a few pieces to the meeting to display, please contact Vicky Frolich at [vickyconn@yahoo.com](mailto:vickyconn@yahoo.com) and let her know what you are bringing so we can make sure that there are enough tables.

**Officers for the 2015 - 2016 Campaign:**

- President** ..... Vicky Frolich
- First Vice President** ..... Gordon Jones
- Second Vice President** ..... Grant Moseley
- Secretary / Treasurer** ..... David Floyd
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- 2014: ..... John Dietrichs
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