



# Battle Lines

*Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta*

Founded 1949

April 2017

642nd Meeting

Leon McElveen, Editor

## April 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

Reservations and payment may be made online at: [cwrta.org](http://cwrta.org)

**Date:** Tuesday, April 11, 2017  
**Time:** Cocktails: 5:30 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm  
**Place:** Capital City Club - Downtown  
7 John Portman Blvd.  
**Price:** \$36.00 per person  
**Program:** .....Todd Groce

## What Really Happened at Ebenezer Creek?

### Sal Ciella in March

If you have never heard of Emory Upton, you missed your opportunity to learn more of this somewhat obscure Federal officer at our last meeting.

Our own Sal Cilella, who has studied Upton extensively, gave us an excellent program on an underappreciated Civil War figure.

### Todd Gross on Ebenezer Creek

On December 8, 1864, the Union XIV Corps, under Brig. Gen. Jefferson C. Davis, reached Ebenezer Creek. While they assembled a pontoon bridge for the crossing, Wheeler's cavalry approached close enough to conduct sporadic shelling. About midnight, Davis's 14,000 men began their crossing. Over 600 freed slaves were anxious to cross also, but Davis ordered his provost marshal to prevent this. The freedmen were told that they would be able to cross after a Confederate force in front had been dispersed. In reality, no such force existed. As the last Union soldiers crossed the next morning engineers abruptly cut the bridge loose and drew it up.

As a panic set in amongst the freedmen, they were impacted by a surge of pressure from the rear, and then stampeded into the icy water, old and young alike, men and women and children, swimmers and non-swimmers, determined not to be left behind. In the uncontrolled, terrified crush, many quickly drowned.

Be at the April meeting to get the complete story from Dr. Todd Groce.

### Tell Me Something I Don't Know

The Unknown Hero of DeGress's Battery: When US Capt. Francis DeGress fired the last shots of canister at attacking Confederates overrunning his battery during the Battle of Atlanta, he was not alone! Find out who helped him - and gave his life in the attempt.

### Menu for April Meeting

- Greek Salad
- Tilapia, Vegetable
- Raspberry Cheesecake

**Upcoming Programs**

**May 9, 2017**..... Harold Holzer  
*Lincoln and the New York Editors, 1864: How Atlanta Saved the President and the Press*

**June 13, 2017** ..... Chris Mackowski  
 TBA

**Nominating Committee Report**

Vicky Frolich, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, will announce the proposed slate of officers for the 2017 - 2018 Campaign Year at the April meeting. The floor will be open for additional nominations at the May meeting and we will vote in June.

**Change of June Speaker**

Due to some issues with his back, our June speaker, Gary Gallagher, will not be able to be with us. He has cancelled all his engagements until his back can heal. He will be replaced by Chris Mackowski, editor-in-chief of *The Emerging Civil War* and historian-in-residence at Stevenson Ridge, a historic property on the Spotsylvania battlefield.

**Round Table Hats On Sale**

Our new Civil War Round Table of Atlanta hats are selling fast. They are baseball-style caps in blue and gray with the Round Table logo embroidered on the front. We will have them available again at the April meeting. Be sure to get yours while they last. Cost will be \$15.00. Cash, check or credit card.



**Special Offer for New Guests in April**

In a repeat of the offer we made last year, the first twelve new guests to register for the April meeting will receive a discounted price of \$26.00, a savings of \$10.00.

Make an extra effort to invite a potential new member to our organization and take advantage of this special offer. If you bring enough folks you can almost make a living on the money you save.

**Upcoming Events**

**April 1, 2017:** *Washington-Wilkes Spring Tour of Homes* - Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Visit antebellum homes, and historic sites, Tiffany windows at Mary Willis Library featuring the personal collection of Richard Harwell, the Robert Toombs' House, Washington-Wilkes Museum. Tour tickets: \$30.00/ person, available at First Baptist Church, includes shuttle service to the several featured sites. 706-678-2013, [www.wwtourofhomes.com](http://www.wwtourofhomes.com)

**April 1, 2017:** *16th Annual National Confederate Memorial Service* - Saturday, 1:00 pm, In front of the Carving Reflection Pool, Stone Mountain Park, . Annual service to memorialize all those who served the Confederacy. Program includes a speaker and firing salute. FREE admission; tell gate employee you are attending the service. 706.678.7720, [odian@denardandmooreinc.com](mailto:odian@denardandmooreinc.com)

**April 8, 2017:** *Bivouac 2017* - Saturday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Historic Piedmont Hotel and Museum, 827 Maple Street, Gainesville GA. A community-wide event centered at the hotel once owned by former Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet. Activities include a Civil War reenactment, tours of the historic hotel, lunch and music, and a self-guided driving tour of historic Gainesville. FREE admission. 770-539-9005, [www.longstreet.org](http://www.longstreet.org)

**April 17, 2017:** *Leading From the Front* - Monday, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Snelling Center, 3165 Washington Road, Augusta GA. Vince Dooley, ACWRT member and former University of Georgia Head Football Coach & Athletic Director, will speak during the monthly meeting of the Augusta Civil War Round Table on Free admission for first time visitors. 706-736-2909, [gfy@gwenfulcheryoung.com](mailto:gfy@gwenfulcheryoung.com)

**Officers for the 2016 - 2017 Campaign:**

- President**.....Gordon Jones
- First Vice President**.....Grant Moseley
- Second Vice President** ..... Brian Wills
- Secretary / Treasurer** ..... David Floyd
- Executive Committee** 2016: ..... Deborah Lindsay
- 2016: ..... Larry Stone
- 2017: Mary-Elizabeth Ellard
- 2017: . Amir Nowroozzadeh
- Past President** ..... Vicky Frolich
- Battle Lines Editor** ..... Leon McElveen