



# Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table  
Founded 1949

## January Meeting

*Reservations are required*

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DINNER RESERVATION IN THE AMOUNT OF **\$39** PER PERSON ONLINE AT

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**TO REACH TIM NO LATER THAN THURSDAY BEFORE THE MEETING.**

**Date: Tuesday, January 14**

**Time:** Cocktails 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:45 p.m.

**Place:** Capital City Club-Downtown; 7 John Portman Blvd.

**Price:** **\$39** per person

### Program:

Garry E. Adelman

*Civil War Artillery Extravaganza*

### Menu for January Meeting

Spinach and Berry Salad

Pan Seared Lemon Sole

Glazed Lemon Pound Cake

## Civil War Artillery Extravaganza

From the first shots in Charleston Harbor to the massive salutes that signaled the war's end, artillery played a crucial role throughout the Civil War and the "long arm" continues to fascinate students, buffs, and engineers. Join historian Garry Adelman in January for a wide-ranging presentation that endeavors to cover the people, places and technology that render artillery a topic of endless fascination. From massed and masked battalions to river and fortress batteries to the terrible human consequence of cannons, and to the tubes seen on battlefields today, Garry's presentation will cover the practical and the emotional sides of this vital topic in an energetic manner available nowhere else. Hang onto your hats! With a detailed photo presentation, Garry promises a program that will cover the entire subject of Civil War artillery and inform novices and experts alike.

Garry works full time as Director of History and Education at the American Battlefield Trust. He is the award-winning author, co-author or editor of 20 Civil War books and 40 related articles and Vice President of the Center for Civil War Photography. A graduate of Michigan State University and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Garry has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg for 24 years. He has appeared on numerous productions for the BBC, C-Span, HISTORY and the Pennsylvania Cable Network.

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### Relic of the Month

Our raffle item will be an unfired (but deactivated) Civil War Hotchkiss 2.9" case-shot, the basic design of which is still used in all rifled cannon today.

### Dalton Show

Atlanta Civil War Round Table members will make a day trip to the annual Dalton Civil War Show Saturday, Feb. 1. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at the Kennesaw Cracker Barrel (3389 Busbee Drive/ Kennesaw, GA/ 30144) before heading to the Dalton Convention Center. Admission to the show is \$10.

## The President's Corner: Artillery's Long Arm

One might argue the earliest reference to "The Long Arm" of artillery could be David's sling casting a stone at Goliath. Later, the Romans had catapults that simply cast larger stones. With the invention of gunpowder, it didn't take humans long to devise the cannon to, once again, throw stones at the enemy. By 1450 or so, Europeans had learned to make iron cannonballs that did much more damage than stone, and began to figure out how to make stronger cannons of brass or iron to fire them. However, until around 1850, there were only smoothbore cannons that fired only round cannonballs and canister (basically a big shotgun). For reasons relating to physics, one could only fire cannonballs so far, no matter how much gunpowder you used.

By 1850, rifled lead bullets had been used for many decades, and military minds were set to figure out how to properly spin a long iron projectile, whether a solid bolt or an explosive shell. This would allow the projectile to break through and exceed the sound barrier, and allow the projectile to travel further and with greater accuracy than the smoothbore. This was the technical breakthrough that changed warfare for all time going forward. Many rifled cannon/projectile designs were invented and tested from the mid-1850's through the Civil War – and little more than 50 years later, German engineers had designed and built the "Paris Gun", used in WWI to bombard Paris....from over eighty miles away, and the 234 pound shells reached a height of more than 25 miles! At our January meeting Garry Adelman will graphically show us Civil War artillery in action, and tell us how it affected the battles and men during the War—don't miss it!

See you there! *John*



**Artillery Evolution: Smoothbore Cannon (Left); Rifled Cannon (Right)**



Col John Pelham CSA

### Reading About Artillery

For more perspective on the use of Civil War Artillery, Atlanta Civil War Round Table Harwell Book Award Committee Chairman Gary Barnes suggests four books on the subject. *Colonel John Pelham: Lee's Boy Artillerist* by William Woods Hassler and *Lee's Young Artillerist William R. J. Pegram* by Peter S. Carmichael represent the Confederate side. *A Diary of Battle: The Personal Journals of Col Charles S. Wainwright* and *Grape and Canister* by L. Van Loan Naisawald, in which the Army of the Potomac's artillery is discussed, offer a view from the Union forces. Gary also recommends visiting the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor's Center where there are several cannons of the era on display.

### In February: Peter Cozzens on Cahaba Prison

The rare "humanity and hope" that briefly animated Cahaba Prison or Castle Morgan, a Confederate Prisoner of War Camp once located near present-day Selma, Alabama will be the focus of our February program with historian Peter Cozzens. Cahaba opened in June 1863 when Confederate forces built a stockade around a large cotton warehouse and operated until the close of the war in 1865. With the humane leadership of Captain H. A. M. Henderson, who was also a Methodist minister, the prison claimed a surprising survival rate though conditions were harsh, food was scarce and prisoners had less space than their counterparts at Georgia's Andersonville. Intended for approximately 500 prisoners, the prison population soared after Union General Grant suspended prisoner exchange in 1864 and stood at over 3,000 by 1865.

Peter is the award-winning author or editor of over 17 books on the American Civil War and the American West. Recently retired from a thirty-year career as a Foreign Service Officer for the U. S. Department of State, Peter served for four years with the U.S. Army, rising to the rank of Captain before entering the Foreign Service in 1984. A native of Wheaton, Illinois, he is a graduate of Knox College.

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