



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

February 2009

560th Meeting

William R. Scaife, Editor

February Meeting

Reservations Are Required

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR DINNER
RESERVATION CHECK OF **\$30.00** 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, February 10, 2009

Time: Cocktails 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm

Place: **Ansley Golf Club**
196 Montgomery Ferry Road

Price: **\$30.00** per person

Program: **"Battle of Spring Hill - What
Happened to Hood?"**
Tom Cartwright

"Battle of Spring Hill - What Happened to Hood?"

Tom Cartwright a long-time friend and favorite of our Round Table will again visit with us at our February meeting. Tom recently retired as executive director of the historic Carter House Museum in Franklin, Tennessee after more than 19 years. The job of telling the stories of Gen. Patrick Cleburne, Gen. John Bell Hood, the Carter family and "the bloodiest hours of the American Civil War," will now fall to others." as Tom pursues other opportunities to guide battlefield and historical tours across the country, including a Lewis and Clark tour and even in World War II European battlefield tours are also on the horizon for the 52-year-old historian.

Tom the foremost authority on the battles leading up to, around and following the Battle of Franklin. For those who have had Cartwright as their tour guide, or have heard him speak publicly, his knowledge, his passion and his love and respect for the warriors on both sides of the picket line, has made the battle and those who fought come alive to be remembered.

For his program at our Round Table, Tom will focus on the events surrounding the Battle of Spring Hill fought on November 29, 1864 and on the details of the Confederate command structure that led to the Federal escape from their position early on the morning of November 30th. In allowing the Federal movement, Hood perhaps lost his best chance to isolate and defeat a large segment of the Union army. The engagement has been described as "one of the most controversial non-fighting events the entire war.

Make your plans now to attend the February meeting and hear Tom Cartwright.

Caroline Janney in January

Our thanks to Caroline Janney, our January speaker, who provided an excellent program entitled "Burying the Dead, But Not the Past: Ladies Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause"

We often forget in our study of the war to remember the difficulties of and deeds of those who had to deal with aftermath of the war.

Remaining Programs

- March 10, 2009**..... Catherine Deichmann
"Running for the Confederacy: Bermuda in the War"
- April 14, 2009** Peter Carmichael
"Young Virginians in Peace, War, and Reunion"
- May 12, 2009** Frank O'Reilly
"The Death of Stonewall"
- June 9, 2009**..... John Coski
"The Museum of the Confederacy"

Upcoming Events

- February 6 - 7, 2009:** Seminar, "Jefferson Davis vs. Abraham Lincoln", Stephen Dill Lee Institute of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Charleston, SC. Friday: Ed Bearrs; Saturday: Thomas DiLorenzo, Marshall DeRosa, Brian Cisco, Donald Livingston, Kent Brown, \$150 with three meals, \$125 students & SCV. For more information contact: www.stephendleeinstitute.com, (800) 693-4943.
- February 7 - 8, 2009:** Civil War show, books, relics and memorabilia show and sale at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center in Dalton. 9 am-5 pm Sunday, 9 am-3 pm Sunday. \$7. www.mikekentshows.com.
- February 21 - 22, 2009:** Reenactment, "Battle of Aiken," near Route 19 exit from I-20. Camps open 9 am-5 pm both days with living history demonstrations and music. Battles 2 pm each day. More info: www.battleofaiken.org.
- March 27 - 8, 2009:** Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia will present its 13th Annual Civil War Seminar. This year's program is entitled "The Reel Civil War: The Civil War in the Cinema. Featured speakers include renowned authors whose books are familiar to all Civil War enthusiasts. Also exhibits of Civil War artifacts and memorabilia for the public, vendors of Civil War items, and a special exhibit of Civil War movie posters. Reservations by March 25. Admission \$65. Special rates at the Kirkley Hotel of Lynchburg. For pricing call (434) 237-6333. For more information, go to, <http://www.liberty.edu/index.cfm?PID=8516> or call 434-592-4366, or email: klburdeaux@liberty.edu

The Path to Spring Hill

After abandoning Atlanta on September 1, 1864, John Bell Hood and his Army of Tennessee, reduced to about 35,000 men, launched a plan to lure the Federal forces led by William T. Sherman away from Atlanta. Thus began a series of fateful steps that would lead to the destruction of the Army of Tennessee. The plan was to dash across Alabama into Tennessee, regain Nashville, and then move into Kentucky, thus transferring the offensive to the Confederate side. Going on the defensive, Sherman assigned a part of his considerable force to George H. Thomas and placed him in charge of protecting Tennessee.

A race to Nashville developed. As the Army of Tennessee pushed north, Thomas ordered John M. Schofield to stop Hood's advance. With about 22,000 men, Schofield arrived in Columbia, Tennessee, but Hood outflanked him and continued towards Nashville. Schofield moved ahead to Spring Hill and by the time Hood's advancing forces arrived there, Schofield had entrenched in a strong defensive position. In late afternoon on November 29, the Confederates bivouacked in sight of the all-important road but inexplicably made no effort to take it. During the night, Schofield quietly moved his entire army past the Confederates.

When Hood awoke on the morning of November 30 and learned that his quarry had escaped, he was outraged. Lashing his army into a double-quick pursuit, he arrived late in the afternoon at Franklin where the Federal infantry and artillery awaited him in strongly fortified entrenchments. The carnage of the Battle of Franklin followed.

Officers for the 2008 -2009 Campaign:

- President** Barbara Long
- First Vice President** Bruce Stewart
- Second Vice President** J.D. Humphries
- Secretary / Treasurer** David Floyd
- Executive Committee** 2008: Gould Hagler
2008: Rick Eiserman
2009: Jack Melton
2009: . Steve Morrison, Jr.
- Past President** Lee Weinstein
- Battle Lines Editor** Bill Scaife