When: Thursday, April 3, 2014 – (Our 30th Meeting)

Where: KSU Center – 3333 Busbee Drive in Kennesaw

Time: Meet & Greet @ 6:30pm – Meeting @ 7:00pm

Some of us meet for dinner at the Cracker Barrel at 5:00pm. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Speaker: Larry Stephens – John P. Gatewood: Confederate Bushwhacker

Larry D. Stephens is a reference librarian at Georgia Highlands College in Rome, Georgia. Born and reared in Marietta, Georgia, he grew up within a stone's throw of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. His close proximity to the battlefields sparked his life-long interest in the American Civil War. He attended Georgia Southern University, where he earned a BA in history, and the University of West Georgia, where he earned a MEd in social studies education. He taught high school history for a number of years in Decatur, Georgia, before returning to college to earn a MS in library and information studies from Clark Atlanta University. He has written several other books on the Civil War and is a Civil War reenactor. Stephens lives in Rome, Georgia.

John P. Gatewood was one of the South's most controversial and feared guerrilla fighters. He grew into adulthood against the backdrop of Southern neighbors with opposing views, as Confederate loyalists and Union supporters began to distinguish themselves. These conflicts shattered longstanding friendships, creating some of the most vicious blood feuds in American history. During the turbulent Civil War era, the
mutual paranoia that permeated entire communities fueled the retribution, pitting neighbor against neighbor. The Gatewood family controlled extensive property in the East Tennessee Mountains in a region known as Lincoln Country—an area filled with Union sympathizers. His family, however, were loyal Confederates; they hailed from a long line of prosperous Virginia tobacco farmers and slave-holders. Once the war began and Tennessee split its allegiance, a fiercely loyal sixteen-year-old John enlisted, leaving his parents and younger sister behind. When he snuck away from camp to visit his family almost two years later, disaster had already struck. His beloved sister had been raped and killed by Yankee soldiers. Gatewood's vow to revenge his sister by punishing both Yankees and Yankee sympathizers would take his life on a terrifying path. He became a formidable bushwhacker, standing at six feet tall with wild red hair and cold blue eyes. A leader of guerilla soldiers, he hunted, robbed, and viciously killed anyone perceived as a Yankee supporter. His brutal journey of revenge and his mysterious post-war years are chronicled here in fascinating detail.

March Meeting:
Dan Cone presented on his new book, Last to Join the Fight: The Sixty Six Georgia Infantry.
More than five dozen regiments from Georgia fought for the Southern Confederacy; one of these was the 66th Georgia Infantry. Raised and commanded by early-war veteran James Cooper Nisbet, the 66th assembled at Macon in summer 1863, suffered through a winter of discontent in Dalton, charged into enemy fire at Peach Tree Creek and Atlanta, and slogged through the rain and mud of Franklin and Nashville before surrendering. LAST TO JOIN THE FIGHT chronicles the service of this penultimate Georgia Confederate unit. Drawing on newspapers, letters, and diaries, this book details the hard realities of service in a Civil War regiment. Yet it also assesses the often-flawed memories of Colonel Nisbet, and plumbs census records to reconstruct the social makeup of the 66th. A sample group of more than 500 men displays the extent of poverty in the ranks, and considers how variables in a soldier’s age, family status, home location, or economic background determined devotion or desertion. Concluding pages view the regiment’s survivors in the postwar period, amidst hard times and historical forgetfulness. The story of the 66th Georgia Infantry has never been told before. LAST TO JOIN THE FIGHT offers not a noble epic about valiant fighting men, but rather the bloody-ground truths about the Civil War from the vantage point of those who entered it towards the end.

Membership:
We now have 178 members. Of these, 76 are new members. If you know someone that enjoys excellent presentations on Civil War history, please invite or bring them to one of our next 3 meetings. Remember, they can attend the first meeting free. Our new year, 2014-2015, starts on July 1st. We hope to begin our new year with 200 members.
Nominating Committee:
Terry Kingery will announce the Board nominations for the 2014-2015 campaign year at the April meeting. These nominations will be voted on at the June meeting.

Funraising:
Due to having not yet received our 501(3c) tax exempt status (filed last September) we have not been able to raise any funds from raffles, etc. We are running a little short on funds this year so we have decided to add a surprise speaker in July. We will charge $5.00 per person. You will hear more about this at the April meeting.

Web Page:
If you have not looked at our web page lately, please do. The site is www.cobbcwrt.org. It is up to date thanks to Melanie Dobbins, owner of Tritone Promotions, Marketing & Events. It has a lot of excellent articles and upcoming events on it. Refer to the upcoming events on the web page to stay informed on all of the Civil War programs in the area. Also, while on the web page check our facebook page. It has information and pictures of our meetings. While on the facebook page, be sure to like us.

Upcoming Events:

Cabin Life at Pickett's Mill
Saturday, Apr 12, 2014
Join us at the log cabin for this living history event. Discover what fall was like on a small farm during the Civil War 150 years ago. Watch someone cook over a fire. Enjoy toys and games. Experience the sights and sounds of a black powder demonstration as authentic style muzzle loading rifles and muskets are fired. $2-$4. 770-443-7850.
Location:
Pickett’s Mill Battlefield Historic Site
4432 Mt. Tabor Church Rd
Dallas, GA 30157

150th Commemoration - Battle of Pickett's Mill
Saturday, May 31, 2014
Come watch real-time troop movements, infantry and artillery firing demonstrations, and see what life was like on the line. See how civilians survived as the Civil War came to Pickett’s Mill.$2 -$4. 770-443-7850.
Location:
Pickett’s Mill Battlefield Historic Site
4432 Mt. Tabor Church Rd
Dallas, GA 30157
1864 Atlanta Campaign Commemorative Run

May 2-4, 2014

What?
A commemorative 3 day run (~105 miles) from Ringgold, GA to Kennesaw retracing the route that Union and Confederate soldiers marched and fought along during a portion of the Atlanta Campaign.

Why?
- Bring awareness to our state's rich civil war history
- Combine my love of running and history
- Commemorate the tour my great, great, great uncle Robert K. Houpt served with the 31st Indiana during the Civil War. He marched the same route I’ll be running, and
- Raise awareness and donations for the Georgia Battlefields Association (www.georgiabattlefields.org)

How You Can Help?
- Volunteer to crew or cheer me along the way
- Donate to the Georgia Battlefields Association

Make a donation!

Where to find more information: (www.atlantacampaign-run.blogspot.com)

Thanks for your support!
- Tracy Houpt

The Route
Thursday, April 24, 2014 @ 7:00pm
Brumby Hall and Gardens will present well-known Civil War artifact collector Beverly “Bo” DuBose III to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The event will focus on events in Cobb County and feature examples from DuBose’s extensive collection. Cost will be $10.00 for adults, $5.00 for students. For info call (770) 424-7135

June 6-8, 2014
Gone With the Wind 75th Anniversary Event. This will be the kickoff event for a month of Civil War activities in June and throughout 2014. For a list of the itinerary and pricing, go to: www.gwtwmarietta.com.

Friday, June 27, 2014 @ 12:00 Noon
Monument Dedication Ceremony for the 15th Infantry at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park. Go to: www.15thinfantry.org/monumentproject.html for more information.

Here is a great list of websites for many events in this area over the remainder of the year for 150th celebrations of the Civil War

Civil War Courier – www.civilwarcourier.com

Georgia Civil War Commission – www.georgiacivilwar.org

Old Clinton War Days – www.scv1399.org/old_clinton_war_days.php

Marietta 150th – www.mariettacivilwar.com

Pickett’s Mill 150th – www.gastateparks.org/event21402?local

Kennesaw 150th – www.battleofkennesawmountain150.com

Marietta 150th – www.mariettacivilwar.com

Nash Farm 150th – www.henrycounty battlefield.com

Tunnel Hill 150th – www.battleoftunnelhill.com

Atlanta 150th – www.atlantacampaign.com

Sandersville 150th – www.sansersville.org

Spring Hill 150th – www.rippavilla.org
Grant is artful – I fear he is trying to entrap Lee into an advance;” an anonymous writer, penned these words to President Jefferson Davis on the last day of March. Two days prior to this communication, General Robert E. Lee sent a dispatch to Davis indicating, “The time is also near at hand when I shall require all the troops belonging to this army.” Reconnaissance reports provided Lee with intelligence, which indicated Lieutenant General U.S. Grant had returned from his trip in the west, and joined with Major General George Meade’s Army of the Potomac in Virginia. The commander of the Army of Northern Virginia outlined to the Southern president his concerns over upcoming military action, indicating, from his perspective, future “…operations in Virginia will be vigorously prosecuted by the enemy,” and reiterating the need for “…an aggressive movement in the West [to] disconcert their plans and oblige them [Federals] to conform to ours.” The gathering and absorption of information certainly occupied Lee’s thoughts.

Elsewhere in the field, the approach of spring brought a continued increase in military activity. Major General Nathan Bedford Forrest skirmished with Federal forces in Kentucky, and in Louisiana, troops under the command of Major General Nathaniel Banks skirmished with the Confederates near Natchitoches. The Army of Tennessee remained in their Dalton, Georgia, winter quarters, and according to the report of a special correspondent with the London Morning Herald who visited Dalton, the soldiers displayed “...the most encouraging character.” The reporter noted the extreme confidence the men had in General Joseph E. Johnston, and felt assured the army “…will in the hour of battle give a good account of itself.” Lee certainly hoped this would prove true!

In Washington County, the Abingdon Virginian reported on the recent promotion of native son W.W. Blackford. During the first year of the war, Blackford had assisted “Grumble” Jones in forming the Washington Mounted Rifles. Developing a pre-war acquaintance with a young man, who in 1861 ran a law practice in Bristol – John S. Mosby - later enabled Blackford to influence the lawyer to take down his shingle and join with the troops assembling in Abingdon. Three years into the conflict, Blackford earned a major’s star, and residents took great pride in reading of an officer who had “…born himself most gallantly throughout the whole of war...no one more richly deserved promotion...he will do honor to the service.”

The Battle of Gettysburg, fought almost nine months prior, continued to gnaw at Meade. He had received considerable criticism in the press for his inability to destroy Lee’s army after the battle; most of the accusations he could ignore, one he could not. A story appeared in the New York Herald, under the byline “Historicus,” which accused Meade of failing to listen to advice from his various corps commanders. Suspecting Major General Dan Sickles as the author, Meade wrote to President Abraham Lincoln, requesting a court of inquiry. Lincoln responded on March 29, empathizing with Meade’s “…sensibility on the subject.” However, the commander-in-chief also indicated, in direct fashion, “…it is much better for you to be engaged in trying to do more, than to be diverted, as you necessarily would be, by a Court of Inquiry.” Grant would depend on a focused Meade, and perhaps he had some influence on the president’s response to the Gettysburg victor. One of the president’s secretaries, John Hay, noted in his March 27 diary entry, “Today, General Grant came to Washington for a few hours.” Two days later, Lincoln wrote to Meade, and a little more than one week after his visit with the president, Grant issued campaign orders to Meade and his other subordinates. Both armies continued to prepare, mentally, for the battles ahead.
Just Released – Speakers for our 2014 – 2015 Campaign Year!!!

September 4, 2014 - Eric Wittenberg: Little Phil: Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley

October 9, 2014 - Larry Hewitt: Civil War Myths & Mythmakers

November 6, 2014 - Noah Andre Trudeau: Southern Storm: Sherman's March to the Sea

December 2, 2014 - Christmas Dinner - no speaker

January 7, 2015 - Bill Potter: The Great Revivals in the Confederate Armies

February 5, 2015 - Patrick Schroeder: Thirty Myths about Lee’s Surrender

March 5, 2015 - Tom Perry: J.E.B. Stuart

April 9, 2015 - Mark L. Bradley: This Astounding Close: The Road to Bennett Place

May 7, 2015 – Dr. Brian Wills: Forrest & Selma

June 4, 2015 - Dr. John Derden: The World’s Largest Prison: The Story of Camp Lawson