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KENT CIVIL WAR SOCIETY * P.O. BOX 3671 KENT, OH 44240

<https://www.kentcivilwar.org/>

Meeting Hotline (330) 474-9362

“WHICH BATTLE DOOMED THE CONFEDERACY – GETTYSBURG, VICKSBURG, OR ATLANTA?”

A GROUP DISCUSSION

SHELTER HOUSE, FRED FULLER PARK, KENT

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024, AT 7:30 P.M.

Gettysburg has been called the High-Water Mark of the Confederacy (there's even a monument saying it is so). The battle on July 1-3, 1863, marked the Confederacy's furthest significant movement into Northern territory. Vicksburg has been called the most crucial battle because the Confederate surrender there on July 4, 1863 gave the North control over the vital transportation route on the Mississippi River. The July 22, 1864 Battle of Atlanta was part of a larger campaign that summer. The campaign, highlighted by the fall of the city, was important politically as much as militarily.

Our discussion invites attendees to ponder the implications of each of these battles and the campaigns in which they were a part. Why was each important? What did each change? How much did it matter? Attendees of any and all levels of Civil War study experience are invited to listen and share their thoughts. The public is welcome.

Our optional pre-meeting dinner will be at Eddy's Deli & Restaurant, 4581 Kent Road in Stow, beginning at 5:30 p.m.



The Burning of Atlanta, July 1864. New York Times photo.

Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Atlanta. Hmm...

Gettysburg

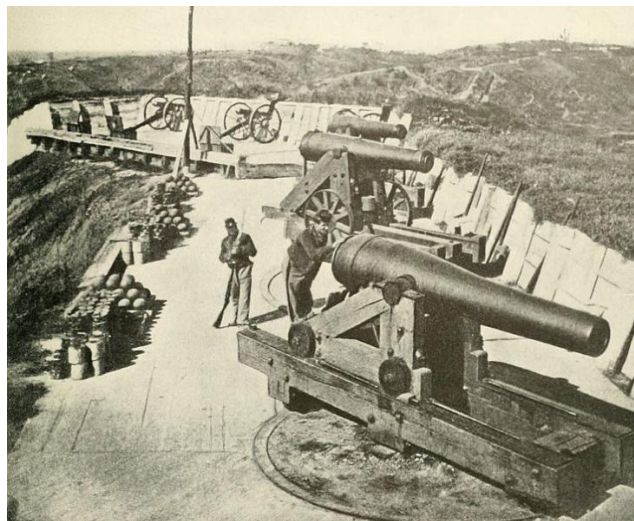
The Battle of Gettysburg was a three-day battle in the American Civil War, which was fought between the Union and Confederate armies between July 1 and July 3, 1863, in and around Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The battle, won by the Union, is widely considered the Civil War's turning point, leading to an ultimate victory of the Union and the preservation of the nation. The Battle of Gettysburg was the bloodiest battle of both the Civil War and of any battle in American military history, claiming over 50,000 combined casualties.

Vicksburg

The siege of Vicksburg (May 18 – July 4, 1863) was the final major military action in the Vicksburg campaign of the American Civil War. In a series of maneuvers, Union Major General Ulysses S. Grant and his Army of the Tennessee crossed the Mississippi River and drove the Confederate Army of Mississippi, led by Lieutenant General John C. Pemberton, into the defensive lines surrounding the fortress city of Vicksburg, Mississippi, leading to the successful siege and Confederate surrender. Vicksburg was the last major Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River; therefore, capturing it completed the second part of the Northern strategy, the Anaconda Plan.

Atlanta

The Atlanta campaign was a series of battles fought in the Western Theater of the American Civil War throughout northwest Georgia and the area around Atlanta during the summer of 1864. Union Maj. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman invaded Georgia from the vicinity of Chattanooga, Tennessee, beginning in May 1864, opposed by the Confederate general Joseph E. Johnston. Johnston's Army of Tennessee withdrew toward Atlanta in the face of successive flanking maneuvers by Sherman's group of armies. In July, the Confederate president, Jefferson Davis, replaced Johnston with the more aggressive General John Bell Hood, who began challenging the Union Army in a series of costly frontal assaults. Hood's army was eventually besieged in Atlanta and the city fell on September 2, setting the stage for Sherman's March to the Sea and hastening the end of the war.



The Siege at Vicksburg, Mississippi