



# North Central Texas Civil War Round Table

<http://www.ncentexcwrt.com/>

Granbury, Texas

Volume 5, Issue 4

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## Meeting Schedule

Apr 14, 2025 Pat Falci (as  
A.P. Hill)

May 5, 2025 Dr. Curt  
Fields (as Gen Grant)

Jun-Jul-August : Recess

Sept 8, 2025 BRIAN MAT-  
THEW JORDAN, Ph.D.

[Next Meeting: 14 April at Spring Creek BBQ](#)

Program starts at 6:30

Pat Falci who portrays LtGen A.P. Hill CSA in the movie  
"Gettysburg" will discuss the behind the scenes events in  
the making of the movie.



Our next meeting will be 14 April, and the program will be presented by Patrick Falci, an actor, historian and lecturer. Mr. Falci generally appears in costume as General Hill, and adds great insight into the General's thinking and action, as well as being very entertaining. This is a program you will not want to miss. He will discuss the making of the movie Gettysburg.

Patrick Falci, who played A.P. Hill in the movie "Gettysburg," also acted as historical advisor for that film and for the movie "Gods and Generals." Patrick has spoken at many Civil War Round Tables throughout the country and has been given the Fort A.P. Hill Commander's Award for Excellence four times, the U.S. Army M.D. of DC Commanding General's Award and the SUV Commander's Award for Excellence. He's also an honorary Colonel of the state of Kentucky. He is a lifetime member of the American Battlefield Trust and was a 3-time president of the Civil War Round Table of New York. He has given a program called The Life and Times of the Civil War Soldier for schools and historical organizations for many years. He was also a keynote speaker at Grant's Tomb for their annual birthday celebration.

When Robert E. Lee reorganized the Army of Northern Virginia after his victory at Chancellorsville in May, 1963, General Hill, widely considered the finest division commander in Confederate service, was promoted to Lt. General and assigned to command Lee's Third Corps (James Longstreet and Richard Ewell commanded the 1st and 2nd Corps, respectively.) He ably served in that position until April 2, 1865, when he was killed while attempting to reestablish his lines at Petersburg. This is a program you will not want to miss.

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Thanks to Chuck Patel of Lake View Inn for his support in providing accommodations for our speakers! Support your local Inn keepers!

Our purpose is education and information. From our inception we have kept a calculated balance mixing subjects, people, events and battles so as to appeal to all interests. If you examine our schedule of past speakers which is available on this website you will find this to be true. Speakers have included authors, professors, lecturers, dramatists, curators, and others who have some expertise in the subject of the Civil War.

#### Did You Know?

*The post war reports of battle casualties is, for understandable reasons, much more accurate for the Union Army. Confederate losses are at best estimates.*

Union losses as calculated in the "Statistical Record of the Armies of the United States", 1883

**Total deaths: 294,416**

*(Note more recent analysis estimates losses as 360,000)*

**Killed in battle: 44,238**

**Died of wounds: 33,993**

**Died of Disease: 149,043**

**Of other causes: 67,1452**

**Other causes includes:**

**Suicide: 302**

**Homicide: 103**

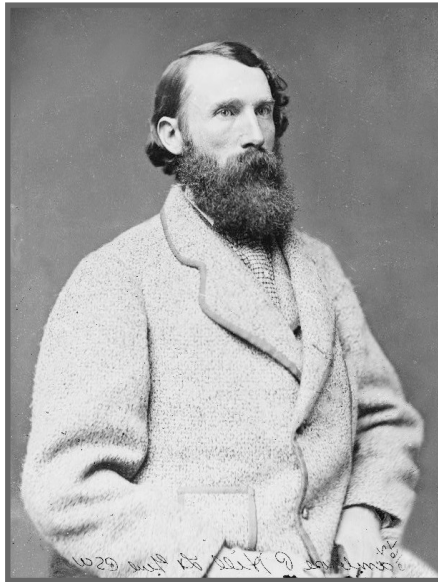
**Executions: 121**

**CSA Losses:**

**Deaths: 258,000**

## Lt. General Ambrose Powell Hill, Jr

November 9, 1825 – April 2, 1865



Ambrose Powell Hill Jr. (November 9, 1825 – April 2, 1865) was a Confederate general who was killed in the American Civil War. He is usually referred to as A. P. Hill to differentiate him from another, unrelated Confederate general, Daniel Harvey Hill.

A native Virginian, Hill was a career United States Army officer who had fought in the Mexican–American War and Seminole Wars prior to joining the Confederacy. After the start of the American Civil War, he gained early fame as the commander of the "Light Division" in the Seven Days Battles and became one of Stonewall Jackson's ablest subordinates, distinguishing himself in the 1862 battles of Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg.

Following Jackson's death in May 1863 at the Battle of Chancellorsville, Hill was promoted to lieutenant general and commanded the Third Corps of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, which he led in the Gettysburg Campaign and the fall campaigns of 1863. His command of the corps in 1864–65 was interrupted on multiple occasions by illness, from which he did not return until just before the end of the war, when he was killed during the Union Army's offensive at the Third Battle of Petersburg.

Just seven days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, he was shot dead by a Union soldier, as he rode to the front of the Petersburg lines. He had called upon the Union soldiers to surrender. Instead, the federals refused the demand and shot Hill through the chest. Hill did not escape controversy during the war. He had a frail physique and suffered from frequent illnesses that reduced his effectiveness at Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spotsylvania Court House. (Some historians believe these illnesses were related to the venereal disease he contracted as a West Point cadet.)

Some analysts consider Hill an example of the Peter principle. Although he was extremely successful commanding his famed "Light Division," he was less effective as a corps commander. [Historian Larry Tagg described Hill as "always emotional ... so high strung before battle that he had an increasing tendency to become unwell when the fighting was about to commence." This tendency was to some extent balanced by the implied combative attitude that he displayed. He often donned a red calico hunting shirt when a battle was about to start and the men under his command would pass the word, "Little Powell's got on his battle shirt!" and begin to check their weapons.[52]

Hill was affectionate with the rank-and-file soldiers and one officer called him "the most lovable of all Lee's generals." Although it was said that "his manner [was] so courteous as almost to lack decision," his actions were often impetuous, and did not lack decision, but judgment

Nevertheless, Hill was one of the war's most highly regarded generals on either side. When Hill was a major general, Robert E. Lee wrote that he was the best at that grade in the Army. He had a reputation for arriving on battlefields (such as Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, and Antietam) just in time to prove decisive. Stonewall Jackson on his deathbed deliriously called for A. P. Hill to "prepare for action."

## The Movie Gettysburg

Gettysburg is a 1993 American epic war film about the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War. Written and directed by Ronald F. Maxwell, the film was adapted from the 1974 historical novel *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara. It features an ensemble cast, including Tom Berenger as James Longstreet, Jeff Daniels as Joshua Chamberlain, Martin Sheen as Robert E. Lee, Stephen Lang as George Pickett, and Sam Elliott as John Buford.

Originally filmed as a miniseries for TNT, Gettysburg received a limited theatrical release from New Line Cinema under the direction of Ted Turner, who owned both entities. At 254 minutes (4 hours and 14 minutes), it is the longest film released theatrically by a major film studio in the United States. It received positive reviews from critics, but grossed only \$12.7 million on a \$20 million budget. It was however considered a hit regardless, due to its immediate TNT premiere ratings success, and subsequent home video sales. A prequel entitled *Gods and Generals* was released in 2003, also directed by Maxwell and featuring many returning cast members.

The miniseries was set to air on TNT, but when Ted Turner saw part of the film during post-production, he realized it was much bigger than a miniseries and decided to release the film theatrically. The film was distributed by New Line Cinema which Turner had just acquired. Only released to 248 theaters at its widest release and limited to just one or two showings per day because of its length, the film still managed to gross \$12,769,960 at the box office. It would go on to become an all-time high seller on the VHS and DVD market, and has become a staple of classroom history lessons. Its June 1994 broadcast television premiere, on TNT, garnered over 34 million viewers, a record for cable television.

Gettysburg received a 77% "Fresh" score with an average rating of 7.3/10 on the review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes, based on 22 reviews. The site's consensus states: "Gettysburg's reverent approach to history is balanced with the committed work of a talented cast - and the hard-hitting dramatization of a bloody turning point in the Civil War."

Roger Ebert of the *Chicago Sun-Times* gave the film three out of four stars, stating, "This is a film that Civil War buffs will find indispensable, even if others might find it interminable." Ebert said that despite his initial indifference, he left the film with a new understanding of the Civil War, and that he felt Jeff Daniels deserved an Oscar nomination for his performance.

For the first time, the National Park Service allowed the motion picture industry to recreate and film battle scenes directly on the Gettysburg Battlefield, including scenes of Devil's Den and Little Round Top. However, much of the movie was shot at a nearby Adams County farm. Thousands of Civil War reenactors from across the country volunteered their time to come to Gettysburg to participate in the massive battle scenes.

