

# Dan Sickles Civil War Round Table



Presents:

## *Glorious Courage:* John Pelham in the Civil War

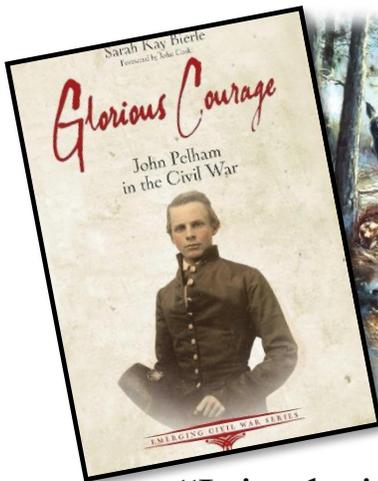
with Public Historian, Author and Educator

***Sarah Kay Bierle***



*A Virtual Program via Zoom*

**Sunday, January 25, 2026 ♦ 7:00 pm (eastern)**



“It is glorious to see such courage in one so young!”

So declared Confederate General Robert E. Lee on December 13, 1862, during the battle of Fredericksburg as he watched Major John Pelham fight at least five Union batteries with just one lone gun. The dashing and handsome 24-year-old Alabama officer earned the compliments and admiration of his men, the war gods of Virginia (Lee, Jackson, and Stuart), and Southern society—all while helping transform the concept of horse artillery on Civil War battlefields.

After Pelham’s death in battle in 1863, his place as a beloved Southern hero soared, and admirers firmly elevated him into the upper ranks of the Confederate pantheon. His status as a Lost Cause martyr exacted a price, though: Admirers transformed Pelham’s memory into “the beau ideal of Confederate arms,” sometimes altering and clouding the realities of his life. His memory has been trapped there ever since—until now.

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