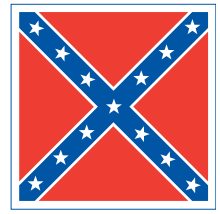


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2012



716th REGULAR MEETING

Dale Phillips

on

“The Red River Campaign”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, December 14

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Prime Rib.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Dec. 12, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us at dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org and/or call us at 630-460-1865.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Dale Phillips on The Red River Campaign

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

In the early spring of 1864, the new overall commander of the Federal forces, General U.S. Grant, was determined to bring the full weight of all his available resources against the Confederates. General George Meade's Army of the Potomac was to advance on Richmond supported by other Union thrusts up the Shenandoah Valley and James River. General William Sherman's forces were to advance from Chattanooga toward Atlanta. This left only the Army of the Gulf under General Nathaniel Banks without a clear objective. Most thought it would be the Confederate port of Mobile but instead the army was ordered to advance up the Red River valley with Shreveport, Louisiana being its primary target. The objectives of the campaign were many. The primary reason was the seizure of masses of cotton needed by northern mills. Another objective was the destruction of the Confederate forces and military support facilities in the upper Red River region. There was the political objective of trying to return as much of Louisiana to the Union fold before the 1864 election.

Dale Phillips' Dec. 14th presentation will look at the successes and failures of the Red River Campaign. The area's geography played a key role in the campaign and the route Union forces took, as they advanced from the mouth of the Red River to within 12 miles of Shreveport. The presentation will look at and discuss the mistakes and the results of this very unique campaign.



Dale Phillips

The presentation will take a special look at Alexandria, Louisiana. During the Civil War Alexandria was a major city on the Red River because it was a portage point around a series of huge rapids that, at times of low water, blocked the river. These rapids would also play a key role in the Civil War story.

New Jersey native Dale Phillips earned his BA degree in American History from York College of Pennsylvania in 1978. He began working for the National Park service as an interpreter at Gettysburg in 1976. His NPS career includes stints at Fort Sumter,

Charleston, South Carolina, supervisory park ranger/historian at Chickamauga/Chattanooga National Military Park, unit manager of the Chalmette (Battle of New Orleans site) Unit

of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, unit manager of the Acadian Unit of Jean Lafitte, and superintendent of the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park. He has written numerous articles on U.S. military history for various publications. He also works as a guide/lecturer for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Civil War Roundtables, and other history touring organizations.

Currently, Dale is superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Previously Unknown John Bell Hood Papers Are Found

By Gregory L. Wade

FRANKLIN, Tenn. — Confederate General John Bell Hood was no stranger to controversy. During his colorful military career, and for historians ever since, he is a controversial and tragic figure.

Faulted for the July 1864 loss at Atlanta, a lost opportunity for possible victory at Spring Hill, Tenn., and reckless behavior the following day at the Battle of Franklin, Hood has often been the subject of ridicule and blame for the demise of the Confederacy in the West.

Those assessments could change thanks to the recent discovery of a major collection of Hood documents. They include Stonewall Jackson and James Longstreet's recommendations for Hood's promotion and wartime and postwar correspondence with R.E. Lee, Braxton Bragg, L.T. Wigfall, S.D. Lee, A.P. Stewart, William Bate, P.G.T. Beauregard, Henry Clayton, James Longstreet, G.W. Smith and other senior commanders, as well as William T. Sherman, Jefferson Davis, James Seddon, and other prominent Civil War characters.

Sam Hood, a student of the Hood's career and distant relative, says, "The list goes on and on."

The cache includes Hood's four general officer commissions and roughly 70 postwar letters from other Civil War notables, Union and Confederate, mostly concerning the controversy with Joseph Johnston, and the work papers from Hood's memoir, *Advance & Retreat*.

"At this point I've not seen anything in General Hood's memoir that is not supported by this newly found documentation" Sam Hood says.

"I have been fighting to right some of the misperceptions and vicious myths of General Hood for years," he says. "The new documents will surely

change some of those views.

While conducting research for an upcoming book, Sam Hood assumed most documents about Hood had been lost or were previously known. Then he learned about hundreds of documents, letters and orders held by a J.B. Hood relative who was not fully cognizant of their historical value. He was invited to review the collection.

"I felt like the guy who found the Titanic, except for the fact everyone knew the Titanic was out there somewhere, while I had no clue that some of the stuff I found even existed," he says. Instead, he was "astonished" by what he was shown in boxes stored in a closet. He spent five days photocopying and inventorying.

"I held in my hands documents signed by Jefferson Davis, Longstreet, Jackson and Lee." There was a letter from Federal commander George Thomas to Hood about prisoner exchanges during the December 1864 siege of Nashville. The West Point diplomas and U.S. Army officers' certificates of both Hood and his son Duncan were there.

Letters between General Hood and Richmond bring new light to the Atlanta campaign. Other letters reveal new "witnesses" to the Confederate failure at Spring Hill and an explanation of Patrick Cleburne's "peculiar demeanor" before and during the Battle of Franklin.

Equally fascinating are the medical journals of Dr. John Darby regarding General Hood's treatment and recovery from his Chickamauga and Gettysburg wounds.

Before he found the cache Sam Hood had completed most of the manuscript for his point-by-point defense of Hood's career, *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General*, set for release next spring by Savas Beatie Publishing.

A dominant theme of the book is that known evidence has been misinterpreted or blatantly misused by many

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The only requirement for membership in The Civil War Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinswood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or editor@chicagocwrt.org.

contemporary authors. Hood cites authors Wiley Sword, Thomas Connolly and Stanley Horn, among others, who he believes established and perpetuated Hood as a scapegoat for the Confederate defeat in the West.

Among the charges he refutes are General Hood's alleged use of painkillers at Spring Hill on the night that Federals escaped almost certain defeat, and assertions that Hood ordered the frontal attack at Franklin as punishment for his troops.

Sam Hood says the "distortion" of General Hood over the years has been based on inaccurate or incomplete works by earlier writers "who are hesitant to counter prevailing orthodoxy." With the new material and documentation, he is ready to further his argument that General Hood was a victim of poor scholarship.

Sam Hood is transcribing the papers. He hopes to publish an edited volume of them by late next year — in time for the 150th anniversary of Hood's ascension to command of the Army of Tennessee, the defense of Atlanta, and the Tennessee Campaign — at which time a copy of the full collection will be released to a yet to be determined public repository.

From November *Civil War News*

November Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

The 715th meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago featured **Tom Clemens** on “Antietam As You’ve Never Heard It,” stories from the archives of Ezra Carman. Carman left a massive legacy: architect of the current battlefield layout, author of the tablets which adorn the park, and a 14-color time sequence map of the battle. He also created a 1,800 page manuscript of the campaign, using the *Official Records*, the “*Battles and Leaders*” series, and regimental histories. But there remain over 2,000 letters from veterans, a rich and relatively unexplored source on the campaign.

Before Carman became the ‘Historical Expert’ of the 1862 Antietam Campaign, the Battlefield Board took out advertisements soliciting veterans’ memoirs. Respondents such as Rufus Dawes accurately described movements of their units, others did not. Carman complained to friend John Gould that “My experience shows that out of one hundred letters written I get replies to about fifty, and not more than four or five are of any value. It takes more trouble to eliminate myth than to get solid fact.”

Carman, a veteran with the 13th New Jersey, was interested in where a unit fought and against whom. His manuscript reflects this approach. But Clemens concentrated on the trove of veterans’ letters. One, from Elijah White, 35th Virginia Cavalry, details the crossing of the Potomac and a night ride

with Gen. Jackson, who remained entirely silent throughout. Col. Sam Pittman, who received ‘Lost Order’ 191, was keen on who delivered the order and the time of receipt. He took exception to accounts of Lt. Col. Colgrove whose troops found the order, and Gen. Kimball, who claimed to have delivered it to Gen. McClellan. Pittman opined that “a strange mist must have clouded Kimball’s memory” on the subject.

Another interesting story came from Gen. Alpheus Williams who expressed skepticism that Gen. Samuel Crawford was wounded rallying his regiment. Carman suggested Crawford remained in the rear, “safely ensconced behind a ledge of rocks, where nothing could touch him.” William Henry Halstead, 26th New York, related conditions in the East Woods, where “some of the senior staff became demoralized” by shelling. In fact, Gen. William Christian had deserted his brigade. Carman “soft pedals” Christian’s apparent cowardice, said Clemens, probably because he was sympathetic to the fighting man.

Louis Reed, 12th Massachusetts, detailed the fighting in the eastern portion of the Cornfield, noting the death of comrades and his own wounding, as well as geographical features – the Roulette buildings and the Dunker Church. James Dinkins, 18th Mississippi, traced his unit’s route to the battlefield and its placement in the West Woods. Col. William DeRosset,

3rd North Carolina, derided brigade commander Gen. Ripley as “a coward or a traitor,” wounded, “unfortunately for his reputation, not fatally.”

At the south end of the battlefield, Adjutant Alexander Cheves Haskell and Gen. Maxcy Gregg mounted horses contrary to orders, and saw the general’s horse killed. Capt. David McIntosh of the Pee Dee Artillery described the movement of his guns, their capture, and eventual recovery. One of his men, Pvt. Napier, wrote McIntosh with more details, offering for his apparent better memory: “...I was but a boy. My mind I guess was flexible and retained these things better. Or perhaps I was worse scared than you and they were firmly fixed by fright.”

The most interesting and poignant tale Clemens relates involves Lee himself, as told by Charles Marshall. When he arrived at the Antietam, a local woman offered Lee coffee. Marshall was asleep, but Lee gave directions “to keep some of it for me when I awoke” before crossing the creek into town. Amidst the chaos of a collapsing campaign, his army in danger of being destroyed, deprived of sleep and in pain due to injuries, Lee thought of his aide.

We thank Tom Clemens for bringing Ezra Carman and his work to life, and for his “gems” which enrich our understanding of the Antietam Campaign and those who fought it.

GRAPESHOT



On Saturday, January 26th, 2013, the **Midway Village Museum** in Rockford will host its annual symposium, featuring **Dr. Douglas Wilson** of Knox College speaking on “Lincoln’s Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words.” David Oberg and Noah/Michele Neiber will also make presentations. The event lasts from 10 to 2, and costs \$28. Lunch is included. For more information, phone (815) 459-1958 or email lonna.converso@midwayvillage.com.

Lincoln: the movie

According to Chicago Tribune film critic Michael Phillips, “Lincoln” is “a grave and surprisingly subtle magic trick, conjuring the past and an almost ridiculously impressive figure in ways that transcend art direction and the right stovepipe hat. Director Steven Spielberg’s latest combines the most commonly shared notions we have of our 16th U.S. president – the folksy deliberation, the spindly gait, the all-seeing eye on the prize of history remade – with the behavior, idiosyncrasies and contradictions of an actual human being... This is one of the canniest explorations of a political animal in recent memory. The animal in question is played by Daniel Day-Lewis in a performance both iconic and gloriously human.”

Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at editor@chicagocwrt.org or (630) 297-8046.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Upcoming Civil War Events

- Dec. 5th, Lake County CWRT: Christmas Party
- Dec. 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on “Stealing the General”
- Dec. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Father Bob Miller on “Lincoln’s Faith”
- Dec. 8th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Victorian Christmas”. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Dec. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: “Civil War Trivia Contest and Holiday Party”
- Dec. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dale Phillips on “The Red River Campaign”
- Dec. 14th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Michael Kutzer presents “Investigating the Battlefields”
- Dec. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Robert May on “Filibusterers and Gen. John Quitman”
- Dec. 20th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party
- Dec. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: No meeting
- 2013 Tour – Antietam, May 1-5**

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

- Jan. 11, 2013: David Powell, “Confederate Cavalry at Chickamauga”
- Feb. 8: Mary Abroe, “Charles Grosvenor, Colonel 18th Ohio”
- March 8: Leslie Goddard, “Mary Chesnut”
- April 12: John Fitzpatrick, ““There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”
- May 10: Ethan Rafuse, “Lee and Gettysburg”
- June 14: Timothy B. Smith, “Corinth”

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be Dec. 8th at noon, with **Amy Greenberg** talking about her new book, *A Wicked War*, and **Glenna Schroeder-Lien** to talk about *Lincoln and Medicine*. Visit www.virtualbooksigning.net for more details.

Have a
Happy and Safe
Holiday Season!!!



150 YEARS AGO – DECEMBER 1862



- 1st:** Lincoln addressed the 37th Congress in the capital and once again announced his intention of abolishing slavery within the United States.
- 7th:** A battle fought at Prairie Grove, Arkansas, left 167 Union soldiers dead, 798 wounded and 183 missing. The Confederates lost 300 killed, 800 wounded and 250 missing. The Confederate army retreats after the battle.
- 7th:** Confederate Gen. John Hunt Morgan and his raiders capture the Union army garrison at Hartsville, Tennessee.
- 10th:** The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to create the state of West Virginia.
- 13th:** Union army General Ambrose Burnside started his attack against Fredericksburg. However, the delay in doing so allowed Lee's men time to dig themselves into well-fortified positions both in the town and in the hills that surrounded it. All attacks were repulsed. An attack on Confederate troops dug in on Marye's Heights led to many Unionist deaths.
- 14th:** Burnside wanted to repeat the assault on Fredericksburg but was persuaded otherwise by his commanders in the field. The Army of the Potomac later withdraws across the Rappahannock River.
- 14th:** Union victory at the Battle of Kinston, North Carolina.
- 17th:** General Grant's reputation was tainted when he issued General Order Number 11, which expelled Jews from his department because "they are a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department."
- 20th:** A Confederate cavalry force under Gen. Earl Van Dorn attacked a major Union supply base at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Over \$1 million in supplies was seized along with 1000 prisoners. Such a loss of supplies meant that Grant had to postpone his attack on Vicksburg.
- 23rd:** Jefferson Davis names General Ben Butler, formerly in charge of New Orleans, an outlaw and an enemy of Mankind. Davis stated that Butler would be hanged if the Confederates captured him.
- 28th:** Union troops under Gen. James G. Blunt captured a considerable amount of Confederate supplies at Van Buren, Arkansas.
- 31st:** Lincoln met Burnside to discuss what went wrong at Fredericksburg. The ironclad 'Monitor' sank in a storm.
- 31st:** Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) in Tennessee starts.
- 31st:** Battle of Parkers Crossroads in Tennessee

Christmas During the Civil War

How it was depicted at the time; taken from Harpers Weekly.

Illustrations by Winslow Homer and Thomas Nast.

