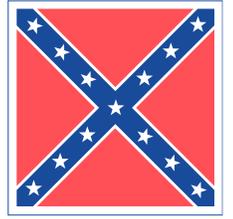


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVIII, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 2018

Lawrence Lee Hewitt:

“Confederate General Richard Heron Anderson”



If asked to name the six lieutenant generals who served as infantry corps commanders under Robert E. Lee in the Army of Northern Virginia, Jackson, Longstreet, A. P. Hill, Ewell, and Early, would probably be followed by John Brown Gordon. Yet, the sixth was Richard Heron Anderson--in terms of seniority, if not ability.

Despite a mediocre performance as division commander at Gettysburg, Lee called upon Anderson to take charge of the 1st Corps when Longstreet was wounded in the Wilderness. Following the Overland Campaign he reinforced Early in the Shenandoah Valley. When Longstreet returned to duty, Lee gave Anderson the 4th Corps, Beauregard’s old command. He managed to escape capture at Little Sailor’s Creek only to be relieved two days later. It was a precursor to his postwar career.

Lawrence Lee Hewitt, a native of Louisville, Kentucky, received his B.A. (1974) from the University of Kentucky and his M.A. (1977) and

Ph.D. (1984) from Louisiana State University. He was the manager of the Port Hudson (1978-1982) and Camp Moore (1982-1986) Historic Sites in Louisiana and taught at Southeastern Louisiana University (1985-1996). He was a tenured full professor when he resigned to marry a native of Chicago, where he currently resides. The 2013 recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award, he is a past president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table. His publications include Port Hudson,

Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi (1987), two volumes of Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi (2013, 2015), and,

To Succeed or Perish: The Diaries of Sergeant Edmund Trent Eggleston, 1st Mississippi Light Artillery Regiment, CSA (2015), which won the 2016 General Basil W. Duke Literary Award. A third volume of Confederate Generals in the Trans-Mississippi will be out in 2018. He recently finished a history of Port Hudson Civil War photographs and is writing biographies of Richard Heron Anderson and David Glasgow Farragut.



769th REGULAR MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, February 9th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN O’HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

**ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.**

SAVE THREE TENNESSEE BATTLEFIELDS!

From the very beginning of the Civil War, Tennessee figured prominently in Union and Confederate strategies. It was in Tennessee – during the war’s early stages – where Gen. Ulysses S. Grant first gained national recognition by demanding and securing the “unconditional surrender” of a Confederate army at Fort Donelson. In 1863, strategists in blue and gray crafted schemes to seize control of Chattanooga—a vital railroad hub that ultimately fell to the Union after fighting at places like Brown’s Ferry, Lookout Mountain, and Missionary Ridge. And it was in Tennessee that Gen. John Bell Hood launched a last-ditch effort to strike back at the Yankees, resulting in inconceivable suffering at Franklin and subsequent defeat at Nashville.

Today, we have the opportunity to save an additional 15 acres at three battlefields in Tennessee: Fort Donelson, Brown’s Ferry (near Chattanooga), and Franklin. We will be adding to the approximately 639 acres we have already saved at these three battlefields—more tiles in the mosaic of Tennessee’s rich Civil War heritage. Thanks to a magnificent \$21.17-to-\$1 match, you and I can save this land—worth a combined total of \$1.5 million—for just \$73,250! (from the Civil War Trust)

PRESERVATION AT FRANKLIN

For Carnton and Carter House, both locations had the biggest year on record

with 105,000 visitors frequenting the historic sites.

And as for 2018, Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson said he only hoped to build on that success in conjunction with new restoration efforts.

Workers will start restoration on the Carnton spring house, which hasn’t been open to the public for a decade. Between the 2010 flood and a family of beavers, the spring house has taken major damage, which the BOFT will fix in the coming year.

“There was a whole litany of issues,” Jacobson said. “But now we are at a point where we can finally move forward.”

Carter Hill Battlefield Park is also expected to expand. Jacobson said the next addition could be nearly an acre. In the last three years, the group has aided in the removal of two houses, Franklin High School’s former gym and a Domino’s Pizza to reclaim land.

In addition, the Carter House will also start construction on the \$3.1 million visitor center. Jacobson said construction could start as early as the summer, with anticipated open of the new building in May 2019.

After a successful year, Franklin’s Charge will look to see what land it can buy next.

In 2017, the nonprofit group made strides with its land preservation and changing the landscape of the acreage

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.chicagocwrt.org

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.

where soldiers fought during the Battle of Franklin. During the last 12 months, the group had two houses removed from a piece of property called the Lovell tract – a strip of land on the south side of the Carter House.

In 2018, Franklin’s Charge chairman Robert Hicks said the group would like to continue on that side of Columbia Avenue to collect and clear properties of buildings or houses. Contract or negotiation talks have not begun for any of the properties being considered.

“It’s an exciting time for us and for all of Franklin,” Hicks said. “We have done something that no other community has attempted to do and that is working with both private and public partnerships to reclaim the battlefield.”

In the meantime, the group will work on further cannon installation and other interpretative pieces at Carter Hill Battlefield Park. (from *The Tennessean*, Jan. 2, 2018)

JANUARY MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Bruce Allardice enlivened The Civil War Round Table at its 768th Regular Meeting on January 12, 2018, presenting a trenchant analysis of a sparsely treated confrontation during the Atlanta Campaign, *'It was Perfect Murder': The Battle of Ezra Church*. Allardice considers the battle to have been dominated by the personalities of the generals in command. John Bell Hood, having already assaulted twice in the 10 days he commanded the Army of Tennessee, had fulfilled President Davis' wish for an aggressive commander. But once promoted, Hood needed a commander for his former corps. Having a negative opinion of his division commanders, he reached outside it to appoint S.D. Lee on July 26, 1864.

Lee had performed well at Antietam and in the Vicksburg campaign. However, never having commanded a division, Allardice considers Lee's bloody repulse at Tupelo days before his appointment to reflect a less than brilliant tactician. Nonetheless, Lee fit important criteria: Hood knew Lee to be an aggressive soldier from their service together in the Army of Northern Virginia; also, Allardice conjectures that being a newcomer, Hood felt more secure with an outsider who, unlike himself who intrigued against Joe Johnston, would not threaten his commander. Others thought differently, one soldier calling Lee a 'newcomer' promoted 'above his deserts.' On the Union side, the Army of the Tennessee needed a new commander. Oliver Howard, a cautious commander, was appointed over another intriguer, Joe Hooker, and John Logan, a political general did not meet Sherman's preference for West Point officers.

After destroying the railroad to the

east, Sherman planned to further isolate Atlanta by moving around the city westward to cut the Atlanta and West Point railroad. Howard's movement began on July 27th but was discovered by Confederate cavalry. Thus alerted, Hood on the evening of the 27th ordered Lee to send the divisions of Brown and Clayton south, alongside the Lickskillet Road. His orders were to avoid a general engagement, if possible, and not to attack unless he saw a decided opening. On the 28th, General Stewart was to take two divisions and move behind Lee to what was thought the union right flank and rear and on July 29th, reinforced by his third division, attack and crush Howard.

Hood's plan was sound as it would have thwarted further movement against the railroad. But there were faults: 1) Hood assumed Lee would reach the road first, despite the federal head start; 2) there was no contingency plan if the federals arrived first; 3) Hood assumed Howard would present an open flank; 4) the plan lacked unified command, contrasted with the union side where Howard was in sole command and Sherman was at his side; Hood remained in Atlanta, out of touch.

It was not surprising Hood's plan unraveled. Convinced by his cavalry that only skirmishers occupied the road, Lee precipitously launched piecemeal attacks against entrenchments. Further, two divisions of Logan's XV Corps were positioned on an east-west ridge, refusing Howard's right and making a flank attack problematical. An initial assault by Brown's men met with some success, but they could not hold. Clayton's assault against "strong works" was repulsed with heavy loss - a

union officer observed, "It was perfect murder." Stewart's units were also fed into the savage battle with little result. Meanwhile, Hood issues orders which by the time they arrived were out of date.

Casualties reveal the disaster: 3,000 confederates of 11,000 engaged, 632 union of 9,144 engaged. Notwithstanding such disproportionate loss, Lee was "convinced that if all the troops had displayed equal spirit we would have been successful." Hood remained detached, writing that the contest ended "without any material advantage having been gained by either opponent." Allardice concludes that Lee could have accomplished his objective simply by pushing back Howard's skirmishers, permitting Stewart's assault the next day. For the demoralized common soldier, the battle "swept away every trace...of confidence" in Hood; for subordinate commanders, it was "a miserable exhibition of generalship." Thus ended a sad affair conducted by a commanding general whose philosophy, "safety in time of battle consists of getting into close quarters with the enemy," proved his army's undoing.



2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The 68th tour dates are April 26th-April 29th for the Atlanta Campaign Tour. The website will be updated soon. Please direct all questions via email using cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org. Randy Doler 219-921-9532 and Brian Seiter 708-513-1865 are the tour co-chairs. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides.

The rest of the details are on the website. On to Atlanta!

GRAPESHOT



In February the **Civil War Museum in Kenosha** will feature the following fine events:

Friday, February 9; Noon. Gene Salecker presents "Friends, Family, Fraud, and Corruption: Reuben B. Hatch, the Man Who Overloaded the Sultana."

Feb. 17-18: Civil War Medicine weekend, featuring a talk by Pamela Toler on "The Real Nurses of the Civil War."

Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

Leslie Goddard will present "Louisa May Alcott" Feb. 10th at the Northfield Public Library.

For more information, visit her website at www.lesliegoddard.info.

On Feb. 19th, at 1, **Bruce Allardice** will present "Private Yankee Doodle: George Washington's Army" at the North Shore Senior Center. At 7 that night at the Zion Genealogical Society, he'll speak on "The Election of 1864."

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Feb 4, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

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 FREE.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

Feb. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Bruce Allardice on "Conscription and the Civil War"

Feb. 2-4: Military History Fest at Pheasant Run

Feb. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Phil Angelo on "What Really Happened at Fort Donelson"

Feb. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Larry Hewitt on "Confederate General Richard Anderson"

Feb. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT:
Art Foley on "Henry Hunt at Gettysburg"

Feb. 17th, Will County Historical Society: Fundraising dinner, unveiling of Lincoln funeral bier flowers

Feb. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Wade Sokolosky on "The Battle of Wise's Forks"

Feb. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT:
Jason Krausz on "The 36th Illinois"

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O'Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Mar. 9th: Robert Jenkins on "Peach Tree Creek"

Apr. 13th: John Marszalek, Nevins-Freeman Address

May 11th: Joseph Rose on "Grant Under Fire"

June 8th: Dennis Rasbach on "Joshua Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign"

Sept. 14th: Tim Smith, topic TBD

Oct. 12th: Ted Karamanski, topic TBD

Nov. 9th: Ethan Rafuse, topic TBD

ABRAHAM LINCOLN BOOKSHOP

Their next Civil War related "Author's Voice" is Feb. 2nd at 3:00 p.m. Bjorn Skaptason speaks with Timothy Mason Roberts about his new book, [This Infernal War: The Civil War Letters of William and Jane Standard](#).

Visit <http://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more information.