



# The Bushwhacker

## September 2010

### Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

Greg Biggs – *Nashville's Siren Song*

Greg Biggs, a historian from Clarksville Tennessee, is the former associate editor of *Blue & Gray Magazine*, actively involved in numerous Civil War related activities and events, tour guide, lecturer, and author of numerous articles. Join us on September 22, 2010 as he discusses **“NASHVILLE: THE SIREN SONG OF THE WESTERN CONFEDERACY.”**

In December, 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee laid siege to the massive Union fortifications and garrison of Nashville. In a two-day fight, that Confederate army was all but destroyed. Their arrival at the city's door was the culmination of Confederate strategy that began when the city was captured by Union forces in February of 1862. Thereafter, Nashville became the “Siren Song” for Confederate strategy in the west, luring Confederate offensives no less than five times. This program details the city's importance and each of the five attempts to retake it.

**MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 22, 2010**

**MEAL SERVED AT 6:30 pm  
TWO HEARTS ON LINDBERGH BLVD NEAR GRAVOIS.**

**Doors open around 5:30 pm**

**Please make RESERVATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 8.**

**Let us know if you are eating.**

**Please reserve via our Web Site at**

**<http://civilwarstlouis.org/main/>**

**or Call Gary Scheel at 314-623-2062**

**Bushwhacker deadline: Two weeks prior to each meeting. Please submit items of interest to Walt Bittle [waltb50@centurytel.net](mailto:waltb50@centurytel.net) OR John Harris [ce342@swbell.net](mailto:ce342@swbell.net).**

## *Upcoming Speakers*

- October 27, 2010 - Tim Smith, Historian, Nashville, TN, "The Siege of Corinth"
- December 1, 2010 - Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen, St. Louis CWRT Member, "Longstreet"
- January 26, 2011 – Silvana R. Siddali, Associate Professor, History Department, St. Louis University, "Women in the Civil War"
- February 23, 2011 – Nicole Etcheson, Associate Professor, History Department, Ball State University, "The Border Ruffian Conspiracy"
- March 23, 2011 – Mark Plummer, Professor Emeritus, Illinois State University, "The Sterling Price Raid Into Missouri and Kansas, Autumn 1864"
- April 27, 2010 – Peter Cozzens, Historian/Author, "Shenandoah, 1862"
- May 25, 2010 – Earl J. Hess, Historian, Author, "Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg"

## *A Note From Our President*

### **Civil War Round Table – St. Louis: "Bringing History to Life"**

April 12, 2011 will officially begin the Sesquicentennial of the start of the Civil War. One hundred fifty years is a long time for many Americans to retain knowledge and understanding of the founding of our country, of which the Civil War was the crucial final piece. At a staggering cost in human suffering, we *finally* began to be the republic with justice and freedom for all that was envisioned four score and seven years before.

It is often said that knowledge of history is required in order to avoid repeating its mistakes. This would seem to be particularly crucial now, as the diversions of modern politics and communication technology crowd out the past, especially for the young, a shockingly large portion of whom have never been exposed to American history.

As we approach the 150<sup>th</sup> as members of the Civil War Roundtable of St. Louis, let's look for opportunities to get people involved in their history by inviting them to one of our meetings or special events as guests; by learning about and spreading the word of Missouri's many excellent historic sites; and by being alert to opportunities to tell friends and neighbors about us and about what we do.

Phil Baker

## *A Note From The Board Officers, 2010 - 2011*

President – Phil Baker  
Vice President – Bill Jackson  
Secretary – Paul Hauser  
Assistant Secretary – Ed Rataj  
Treasurer – Mary Riggs  
Assistant Treasurer – Curt Wittbracht  
Board Member – Bob Buxton  
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Board Member – Larry Lapinski  
Board Member – John Mullen  
Board Member – John Nischwitz  
Board Member – Barry Rinderknecht  
Board Member – Gary Scheel  
Board Member – Bob Schultz  
Board Member – Mike Scully  
Bushwhacker Editor – Walt Bittle  
Assistant Editor – John Harris

## *Treasurer's Report*

After the donations were paid, we had a net income of \$2,615 from the 2009-2010 campaign. This was an increase from last year, when our net income was only \$139. Revenue was up due to an increase in memberships and higher attendance at meetings than the prior campaign. Expenses were lower primarily because many of our speakers were from the area, or we were able to share some of the travel expenses with the Kansas City CWRT.

Financial Statement for the 2009-2010 Campaign (rounded)

TOTAL REVENUE	\$18,185
TOTAL EXPENSES (including \$2700 in donations)	\$15,570
NET REVENUE	\$2,615

*Speaker Expenses Information:* Our speakers do not receive any payment for their services; the CWRT reimburses the speakers for their travel expenses and pays motel expenses for an overnight stay when necessary. We have arrangements with the Best Western in Kirkwood and the Pear Tree Inn by the airport.

*Tax Deduction Information:* Some of you have inquired about this, so here's the scoop. A donation given in exchange for something else would benefit the giver; therefore, it would not be tax deductible. **So what does this mean to you?** When you purchase a meal at our monthly meeting, you are reimbursing the CWRT for the cost of the meal PLUS helping to defer the speaker expenses. ***There is no tax deduction benefit related to paying for a meal when you attend a meeting.***

## *May Meeting*

The meeting of May 25 was filled with a wide range of activity. After the introduction of guests, new officers were introduced, and bylaw changes (to eliminate the restriction on terms for the President and Vice President) were passed. Awards were presented to Gary Scheel and Bill Jackson for their exemplary service to the group.

The featured speaker, Greg Clemmer, made an excellent presentation about the life and times of Allegheny Johnson, a person about whom many of us were next to ignorant. Mr. Clemmer's books include *Valor in Gray* and *A Turn for Home*.

Trivia by John Nischwitz was both interesting and frustrating, as usual.

Video tapes of past speakers are available on videotape and can be checked out.

## *Events of Interest*

### *September 25-26, 2010 and September 27-28, 2010*

**Reenactment of the Battle of Pilot Knob, Fort Davidson State Historic Site, Pilot Knob, Missouri**

Activities include Battles (Saturday & Sunday; Blowing up the Fort (Saturday night); Infantry, Artillery & Cavalry Drills; Medical Demonstrations; Civilian Activities; Period Entertainment; Lectures by Civil War Authors; etc.

<http://arcadiavalley.biz/Battle%20of%20Pilot%20Knob%20Reenactment/index.htm>

### *August 12 – 14, 2011*

**Wilson's Creek Reenactment 2011**

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation has begun planning a maximum-effort Civil War reenactment to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Wilson's Creek. Watch for more details and updates on the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation web site at [www.wilsonscreek.com](http://www.wilsonscreek.com).

# *Off The Wall*

## MY SUMMER VACATION

Submitted by Michael Schroepel

Annual Conference of The Civil War Preservation Trust  
Lexington, Kentucky, June 2010

Opening night (Wednesday): Bourbon tasting and reception

I'm not a bourbon drinker, but free alcohol and being in Kentucky made me forget old habits for one evening. The reception offered a chance to socialize with members of the St. Louis Round Table and renew acquaintances with people I've met along the Civil War trail.

Day one (Thursday): History talks

Following a hearty breakfast, the morning was spent taking in four history talks – all interesting, and two I found absolutely fascinating. First up was the story of Jack Hinson who conducted a one-man war against the Federals from his home in western Tennessee. This was followed by a riveting account of the events around Franklin, Tennessee in 1864. I found myself “in” the two armies as they prepared for battle, a thrilling presentation.

Next up was a post-lunch lecture by Kent Masterson Brown on “The Civil War: Kentucky’s Mercurial Course”. Missouri’s experiences readily came to mind. Ed Bearss and Richard McMurry responded to the lectures and the three historians took questions from the crowd.

The session ended at 5 pm, which meant I was on my own until 9 pm. At that time there was a half hour talk about the Kentuckian John Breckenridge and his victory at the Battle of New Market. As a fan of Franz Sigel, this was a painful session for me. The day ended with a wine, coffee, and dessert reception during which time I managed to largely get over my anguish over Sigel’s misfortune.

Day two (Friday): A touring day

Of the available tour choices, I had chosen the Battle of Mill Springs, a rather uncomplicated battle. The day had been mostly uneventful until after the visit to the battle site. We then took a boat ride across what used to be the Cumberland River (until TVA began dam building). We were told the climb from the water’s edge to an old gristmill was not particularly strenuous – but I can’t help but feel we were misled. By the time I got to the mill my shirt was drenched with sweat and I was huffing and puffing. The day ended with a trip to Frankfort, Kentucky. A meal was provided courtesy of the Kentucky Historical Society. A couple of planned post-meal stops were cancelled, but we did get to spend some time at the Old State Capitol. While standing under a painting of Daniel Boone in one of the legislative chambers, I asked a tour guide if she knew where Daniel Boone was buried. She said he was in a Frankfort cemetery. I then told her that Missouri also claimed his body. She was aware of our claim, but evidently was not convinced of its validity.

Day three (Saturday): A touring day

This day I was at Perryville. Unlike at Mill Springs, I feel I could use more reading and walking the ground to gain a half-way decent understanding of the battle. The tour was led by Chris Kolakowski – whose book on the battle was published in 2009. This was a “hiking” tour (as opposed to the bus tour that also went to the battlefield). Advertised as “strenuous” I often thought that I was too old and out of shape to be climbing all the hills – although the previous day’s exertion was more (though less time consuming).

Mid-afternoon found about a half dozen or so making like John Hunt Morgan’s raiders as we “liberated” some cold water from a nearby CWPT bus. My justification was that it was hot and it would be a couple of hours before I could get any water from “my” bus.

The evening was the climax of the conference – the banquet and awards ceremony. I didn’t attend, instead spending part of the evening at a “happening” across the street from the conference hotel – drinking a couple of beers and watching a dance contest. There were several young people with “Arthur Murray” t-shirts. A wave of nostalgia came over me as I recalled my Arthur Murray instructor of some 50 years age. It was good to see the company was still doing business.

Sunday morning: Wrap-up

The conference ended with a closing breakfast buffet and Q and A session with the CWPT President Jim Lighthizer. As in years past, I was pleased with the accommodations, the quality of the speakers and guides, and the topics presented. I managed to escape the exhibit room with only moderate damage (three books purchased). Bits and pieces of knowledge were acquired – including the family pronunciation of Leonidas Polk's first name and some non-Civil War facts – Carrie Nation went to high school in Perryville, and George Clooney was a Perryville visitor when his grandmother lived there.

I've made it a practice to attend the Trust's annual conference every year since 2006 and anticipate attending in 2011 when the Battle of Manassas will be the focus.

## *Off The Shelf*

### *Jack Hinson's One Man War*

by LTC Tom C. McKenney

Pelican Publishing Company, 2009

Submitted by Mike Schroepel

#### *Civil War Sniper*

*In 1862 Jack Hinson swore revenge against Union Army when two sons were executed as bushwhackers. From ambush he picked off men in blue uniforms on gun boats and on land. With a price on his head he continued his vendetta until his gun bore 36 notches at close of war. He guided Gen. Nathan B. Forrest in his last campaign. In area, Oct. – Nov. 1864.*

These words on a Commonwealth of Kentucky historical marker inspired the author to embark on a project to bring to life the story of a man largely unknown to history.

The author contends that Jack Hinson's sons, George and John, were not doing any bushwhacking on the day they were spotted in the woods, guns in hand, by a passing Union patrol. Instead they were victims of "... overactive suspicion and negative assumptions," fed by a number of facts that could cause one to doubt the loyalty of the Hinson family. George and John had been arrested and held briefly on suspicion of being spies some nine months earlier. Their brother William was a Confederate soldier in Virginia and another brother (Robert) was involved with guerillas operating in the area of the Hinson home.

McKenney devotes some pages to a discussion of Federal policies toward guerillas, and there is no indication that the Union patrol ever came to any grief for their actions in summarily executing George and John – even though the episode was particularly gruesome, involving decapitation and presenting the heads to Jack Hinson and his wife, Elizabeth. Jack Hinson began his campaign of vengeance in the spring of 1863. By war's end he had killed more than one hundred Federals, by the author's count.

McKenney's account of Jack Hinson's war activities is fascinating. Hinson began with having a rifle custom made for his particular mission, then moved on to a careful determination of his hidden killing positions and surveillance of Union patrolling routines.

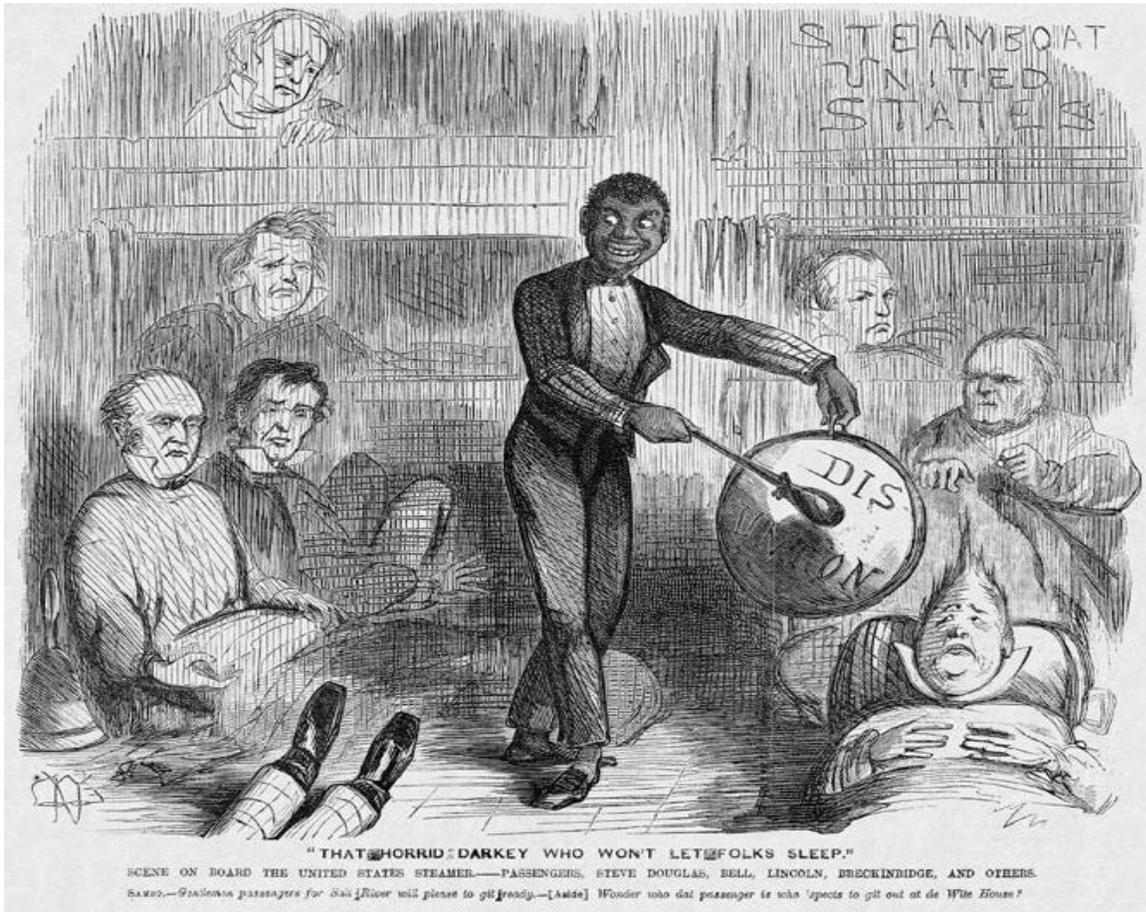
As the Union death toll mounted, increased efforts were made by the authorities to find Jack Hinson. The author details Hinson's life on the lam, periodically resurfacing to visit family, his former slaves, and others.

The narrative of the book is easy flowing, largely due to the "novelized" practice of fleshing out the bare bones of documented facts. The made-up element involving events and dialogue were very plausible to this reviewer.

The Hinson home had been burned down by Union soldiers during the war, so Jack and his wife re-established their residence at another location post-war. Jack Hinson died in 1874. The book's epilogue continues the family story to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

A useful appendix discussed people and places mentioned in the text, with references to present-day appearances.

## Editorial Cartoon of the Month



*Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun, September 01, 1860*

### **“That Horrid Darkey Who Won’t Let Folks Sleep”**

**SCENE ON BOARD THE UNITED STATES STEAMER. PASSENGERS, STEVE DOUGLAS, BELL, LINCOLN, BRECKINRIDGE, AND OTHERS.**

**Sambo: “Gentlemen passengers for Salt River will please to git ready.—”**  
**[Aside] Wonder who dat passenger is who 'spects to git out at de Wite House?**

{The “darkey” banging the gong of “disunion” wonders which passengers will be getting off at the “Salt River.” Traditionally, a gong was used aboard steamboats to make announcements. Going up, or getting off at the Salt River was a term used at that time for political failure. In addition to those mentioned in the caption, James Buchanan is at the bottom right.}

Next year, 2011, marks the beginning of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War. The problems that led to the Civil War – slavery, states' rights, squatter sovereignty, diverging economies, etc. were not new, but the election of Abraham Lincoln in November, 1860, was the event that turned resentment into action.

Beginning with this issue of the Bushwhacker, we will select a cartoon that was published 150 years ago (to the month) reflecting editorial comment on current events. We will begin with commentary on the 1860 election campaign.

Submitted by Bob Schulz

St. Louis Civil War Round Table  
May 2010 Trivia

1. On what battlefields were these officers killed or mortally wounded?

Thomas J. Jackson	<b>Chancellorsville</b>
Nathaniel Lyon	<b>Wilson's Creek</b>
WHL Wallace	<b>Shiloh</b>
Patrick R. Cleburne	<b>Franklin</b>
AP Hill	<b>Breakout Point – Petersburg</b>
JEB Stuart	<b>Yellow Tavern</b>
Leonidas Polk	<b>Pine Mountain</b>
James McPherson	<b>Atlanta</b>
Ben McCulloch	<b>Pea Ridge</b>
John Sedgwick	<b>Spotsylvania</b>
John Reynolds	<b>Gettysburg</b>
AS Johnston	<b>Shiloh</b>
JFK Mansfield	<b>Antietam</b>
John H. Morgan	<b>Greenville TN</b>

2. By the spring of 1862, Jefferson Davis was approaching physical and mental exhaustion due to the seven crushing defeats suffered in the west. What were those defeats?

**Forts Henry and Donelson, Pea Ridge, Shiloh, Corinth, New Orleans, and Memphis**

3. What was unique about H.R. Thruston of the 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry, CSA?

**He was the tallest man in the world at the time at 7 feet 7½ inches tall**

4. After facing each other at the positions along the North Anna River, and before the Battle at Cold Harbor, Grant and Lee faced each other across what other water course?

**Totopotomy Creek, sometimes called Haw's Shop**

5. The Confederate Army had two Lieutenant Generals of Cavalry. Who were they?

**Wade Hampton and Nathan Bedford Forrest**

6. What was a "carcass" and what was its use?

**A hollow cast-iron spherical artillery shell filled with incendiary material used to set buildings and ships on fire. Flame spouted out from four fuse holes.**

7. Who were opposing commanders at the Battle of New Market – 15 May 64?

**MG John C. Breckenridge CSA vs MG Franz Sigel USA**

8. How many VMI cadets were killed or died of wounds at New Market?

**10 (KIA or DOW) and 47 wounded**

**Cadet Sgt. Samuel Wm. Cabell, Cadet Corporal Samuel Atwell, Cadet Privates J. Beverly Stanard, Luther C. Haynes, Thos. Garland Jefferson, Wm. H. McDowell, Chas. Crockett, Joseph Wheelwright, Henry Jones, and Alva Hartsfield.**

**"Died on the field of Honor, Sir".**



# WE WANT YOU!

The Civil War Round Table is St. Louis' premier study and preservation group dedicated to The American Civil War. We "campaign" from September through May, offering eight dinner meetings where historians, authors, experts, and students share their knowledge through lectures and historical presentations.

## **2010 - 2011 Campaign**

- September 22, 2010 – Greg Biggs, Historian, Clarksville, TN, "Nashville's Siren Song"
- October 27, 2010 - Tim Smith, Historian, Nashville, TN, "The Siege of Corinth"
- December 1, 2010 - Lt. Col. Harold Knudsen, St. Louis CWRT Member, "Longstreet"
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- April 27, 2010 – Peter Cozzens, Historian/Author, "Shenandoah, 1862"
- May 25, 2010 – Earl J. Hess, Historian, Author, "Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg"

We meet at Two Hearts Banquet Center (Lindbergh just south of Gravois), with a happy hour beginning at 5:30, dinner at 6:30, business and introductions followed by the Featured Speaker at 8:00 pm. The cost of the meeting is \$17 with dinner, \$5 without. Non-member cost is \$20 for the dinner, \$10 without.

Our dues are \$35 a year for individuals, \$50 for a family, and \$10 for students. Membership entitles you to: attend and vote at meetings, nominate and vote on preservation projects and awards, a subscription to our newsletter "The Bushwhacker", and discounts on seminars and tours organized by the Round Table. Please complete the form below and bring your check with you, or detach the form and mail it with your check made payable to:

*The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis*  
PO Box 220982  
Saint Louis MO 63122

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For further information, please call Walt Bittle at 636-456-5603