



# The Bushwhacker

## October 2010

### Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

**Dr. Timothy B. Smith**

#### ***Critical Crossroads: Corinth in the Civil War***

Doctor Timothy B. Smith was born in Mississippi and received a BA and MA from Ole Miss, and then a Ph.D. from Mississippi State University in 2001, majoring in Early United States History. A veteran of the National Park Service, he currently teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Dr. Smith has been widely published in journals such as *North and South*, *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, *Encyclopedia of the American Civil War*, *Journal of Mississippi History*, and *CRM: The Journal of Heritage Stewardship*. His books include:

- *This Great Battlefield of Shiloh: History, Memory, and the Establishment of a Civil War Military Park* (2004)
- *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg* (2004)
- *The Untold Story of Shiloh: The Battle and the Battlefield* (2006)
- *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* (2007, edited with Dr. Gary Joiner)
- *The Golden Age of Battlefield Preservation: The Establishment of America's First Five Civil War Military Parks* (2008)
- *A Chickamauga Memorial: The Establishment of America's First Civil War National Military Park* (2009)
- *Mississippi in the Civil War: The Home Front* (2010)

Dr. Smith is currently working on a 150-year history of Civil War battlefield preservation, as well as a Civil War history of Corinth, Mississippi, concentrating on the important year of 1862. The town was the scene of a major siege as well as a later battle. He will be speaking to us about Corinth's critical role in the war, dealing with the town as a staging area, then a strategic concentration point – through siege, occupation, battle, and re-occupation.

## **MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2010**

**MEAL SERVED AT 6:30 pm**

**TWO HEARTS ON LINDBERGH BLVD NEAR GRAVOIS.**

**Doors open around 5:30 pm**

**Please make RESERVATIONS BY OCTOBER 20.**

**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**

## *A Note From Our President*

Congratulations to Walt Busch, who will be on hand before the October 27 meeting for a signing of his new book on Pilot Knob. Also, a draft of Bob Schultz' remarkable booklet collection of Civil War-era cartoons will be on display. Beneath each cartoon is copy to help readers understand the cultural conditions that inspired it. These are but two examples of the breadth of historical knowledge and achievement of CWRT SL members.

As a step in our sesquicentennial outreach, we now have Bob's very good tri-fold brochure to distribute to battle sites and elsewhere around the state and adjacent areas. Effort is also under way to get involvement in 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events by working with other historical organizations. Suggestions are always most welcome, by the way.

I suppose if I were to write a book on the Civil War, there would be a chapter devoted to the difference in my present understanding of Missouri's CW role, as opposed to when I was a kid in The Ocean State (RI) in another time period. I'd clearly have to title it: "Who Knew?"

Phil Baker

### *Officers, 2010 – 2011*

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| Board Member – Larry Lapinski         | Assistant Editor – John Harris    |

### *Upcoming Speakers*

- 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*"

**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).**

## *September Meeting*

The attendees at the September 22 opening to the 2010-2011 “campaign” were treated to an excellent presentation by historian Greg Biggs. Mr. Biggs explained in detail why Nashville, Tennessee, was indeed the “Siren Song of the Confederacy”. Connected to both the Eastern Theater and the Trans-Mississippi, Nashville kept drawing the Confederates to attempt to re-occupy it, although it actually had little strategic value in the long run. The editor failed to obtain a copy of the trivia questions provided by John Nischwitz. September and October trivia will be published in the next edition of the Bushwhacker.

## *Events of Interest*

*October 17, 2010, Noon to 5 pm*

### **Death and Mourning Practices in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**

The Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion is holding an afternoon of quiet contemplation. Special exhibits include a display of postmortem photographs, Victorian embalming and funeral practices, mourning clothing and customs, and many other death-related artifacts from the Civil War era. Admission is \$10 per guest. Chatillon-DeMenil Mansion, 3352 DeMenil Place, St. Louis Mo 63118.

*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).

## *Other News*

### **Civil War Museum**

The Civil War Museum at Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis has received a \$500,000 grant from the St. Louis Port Authority. With this added money, the Museum may well be finished by April 18, 2010 – just in time for the official anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War.

### **Markers and Monuments in Missouri**

The Springfield Chapter of Daughters of Union Veterans is publishing “Making Civil War History in the Ozarks – A Guide to Civil War Markers and Monuments in Twenty-Four Southwest Missouri Counties”. For more information, visit <http://duvmissouritent22.org/>.

## *Condolences*

We extend our condolences to the family of former Civil War Round Table of St. Louis member David C. Hinze, who died on August 18, 2010 at the age of 58. He was a teacher of history and chairman of that department for Rolla High School for 32 years. David was well known for co-writing *The Battle of Carthage* and for operating Stars and Stripes Events, a history tour company that visited less famous battlefields.

## *Off The Wall*

I came across the article "Collecting the Civil War: United States reins in banks with National Banking Act" by Pierre Fricke in *Coin World* and thought it would be of interest. It is one installment of a multi-part article.

The United States government passed the National Bank Act of 1863 on February 25, 1863. The goal was to nationalize bank-issued notes, now known as *obsolete* or *broken bank* notes. National bank notes, also called national currency, took their place alongside the "Greenback" or legal tender notes of 1862 and 1863 to fund the war effort against the Confederate States of America.

Under the National Bank Act, the federal government granted charters to banks. These charters enabled the banks to issue their own, federally printed notes for up to 90 percent of the value of bonds that the banks had deposited with the government. This enabled the federal government to sell bonds to the banks to finance the war effort, while enabling the banks to issue a standardized national currency.

The 1863 act was amended by the National Banking Act of June 3, 1864. The second act created the foundation for the modern American banking system. The 1864 act established the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency with the responsibility of chartering, examining and supervising all national banks. It also established the provisions required to start a bank, including the requirement that at least five people be founders, and minimum capital requirements of \$100,000 in cities of less than 50,000 people and \$200,000 in cities of 50,000 people, among other things.

In 1865, another act created a 10 percent tax on all local and state bank notes, making it profitable to issue only national currency. This marked the end of "obsolete" currency issued by private banks.

While individual banks issued their own notes, all of the printing was done by the federal government or private security printers under federal contract. Initially, three private firms printed national currency: the American Bank Note Co., the National Bank Note Co. and the Continental Bank Note Co. The notes were then shipped to Washington where the National Currency Bureau would add seals, thus making the notes official issues of the United States government.

Eventually, the National Currency Bureau would become the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the sole printer of national currency and all other forms of federal paper money. National bank notes of the First Charter were issued in denominations from \$1 through \$1,000 in two separate series. The Original Series notes (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 denominations) were issued during and right after the Civil War (\$1, \$2) followed by the Series of 1875 notes (all nine denominations). The \$500 denomination is extremely rare and the \$1,000 note is unknown.

Submitted by Ed Rataj

## *Off The Shelf*

### Andersonvilles of the North:

#### The Myths and Realities of Northern Treatment of Civil War Confederate Prisoners

by James M. Gillispie, University of North Texas Press, 2008

I bought this book because some of my ancestors were confined in the Alton Military Prison, and this book contained a section on Alton, as well as the other POW facilities used by the north. This book, however, is more interested in disputing the perceptions spread by “Lost Cause” proponents after the war that the poor treatment of Rebel prisoners (poor food, clothing, shelter, medical care, etc) was a result of an intentional policy on the part of the North, since the North had sufficient resources to provide adequately for prisoners.

A compelling case is made that the poor treatment of Rebel prisoners was, in some cases, caused by incompetence, although that does not rule out possible “conspiracies”. I’m not much of a believer in conspiracy theories, so many of the arguments were wasted on me. His argument that the suspension of exchanges was due to the South’s policies concerning black soldiers and not due to the North’s benefitting from halting exchanges seems like rationalizing.

Why do we feel the need to rationalize war? War is an irrational act. So, buy this book if you’re interested in Mr. Gillispie’s arguments that there was no “conspiracy”. But, if you’re looking for more information about life in Civil War POW camps, I’d look elsewhere.

Submitted by John Harris

### Abraham Lincoln

by Thomas Keneally, The Penguin Group, 2003

This book is a short, but fairly inclusive, biography of Abraham Lincoln. It’s a quick read, more suitable for a beginning student of the times – certainly not as deep or as detailed as many of the innumerable volumes on the market.

I was particularly impressed with the occasional soaring bits of poetry in the author’s prose: “. . . , he went to Mathew Brady’s studio and had a photograph taken for potential distribution throughout the Northwest. Like the few earlier photographs that survive, it shows a lean, clean-shaven, tall man, somewhere between august and rough-hewn, possessing an appearance of tentative strength, but already bearing an unreachable, unquenchable sorrow in his profound eyes. He seems a creature hewn from barely violated forests, and polished and grooved by the flow of primeval streams. People who would hate him for his success in the election of 1860 actually called him King Log, as if he were a shaft that had been floated down the Sangamon to the Illinois and to the Mississippi and out its mouth, washing ashore by implacable accident on the more sullied banks of the Potomac.”

I was particularly unimpressed with such inappropriate statements as: “On April 14, Good Friday, the day of the Savior’s crucifixion, there was a cabinet meeting . . . “And even worse, an obvious error: “The shot entered the left side of Lincoln’s skull and exited the right.”

On the whole, I recommend the book.

Submitted by Walt Bittle

## Editorial Cartoon of the Month



Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun, October 15, 1860

### The Perilous Voyage to the White House

*Uncle Abe, attacked by Squatter-Sovereign Douglas, Nix-com-arouse Breckinridge and Old-Fogy-Union-Womanism Bell-and-Everett, dares the perils of Salt River, expecting to win the White House in the distance. P'rhaps he will get it—p'rhaps he won't. The intelligent reader will perceive J. B. in the distance preparing to absquatulate.*

The black man, following Lincoln on the split rail to the White House says, "Guy Massa Lincoln, ef dey get us off, I spose you know whar we am gwine to!" Below them is the "Salt River" a symbol in those times of political failure. On the shore stand the three other candidates, each with a pole (labeled Breckenridge Votes, Douglas Votes, and Bell Votes respectively) trying to upset Lincoln. On the far shore stands "J. B.," James Buchanan, with the traditional tramp's bundle tied to a stick.

**Absquatulate:** U. S., to leave, especially in a hurry or under suspicious circumstances, often used in humor of the time.

[Bushwacker will include a cartoon that was published 150 years ago (to the month) reflecting editorial comment on current events.]

Submitted by Bob Schulz



# 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

- 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*"
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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