



# *The Bushwhacker*

## May 2011

### The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

*Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg*

Dr. Earl J. Hess



Dr. Earl J. Hess grew up in rural Missouri. He completed his B.A. and M.A. degrees in History at Southeast Missouri State University. His Ph.D. in American Studies, with a concentration in History, was awarded by Purdue University in 1986. He has taught at a number of institutions, including the University of Georgia, Texas Tech University, and the University of Arkansas. Since 1989, he has been an assistant and associate professor at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee, where he also has been director of the History Program and currently holds the Stewart W. McClelland Chair in History.

Dr. Hess has published twelve books, twenty-three articles, and more than 100 book reviews. Among his publications are *Into the Crater—The Mine Attack at Petersburg*, 2010, *In the Trenches at Petersburg - Field Fortifications and Confederate Defeat* (2009), *The Rifle Musket in Civil War Combat - Reality and Myth* (2008), *Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee - Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign* (2007), and *Wilson's Creek, Pea Ridge & Prairie Grove: A Battlefield Guide With a Section on Wire Road* (2006), and *Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War: The Eastern Campaigns, 1861-1864* (2005), and *Lee's Tar Heels: The Pettigrew-Kirkland-MacRae Brigade* (2002), and *Pickett's Charge - The Last Attack at Gettysburg* (2001).

"Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg," will focus on the experience of living within the fortification system, Union and Confederate, in which the Petersburg campaign was played out for eleven months in 1864-1865, including the long and cold winter months. Dr. Hess will discuss food, shelter, sanitation, morale, attempts to create an aerial alternative to trench warfare by an enterprising Southern inventor, and other topics associated with having to exist in a ditch for months on end under all kinds of weather.

## **MEETING DATE: MAY 25, 2011**

**TWO HEARTS ON LINDBERGH BLVD NEAR GRAVOIS**

**Doors open at 5:30 pm; Meal served at 6:30; Presentation at 7:30**

**Make reservations by MAY 18 and 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: Three weeks prior to each meeting. Please submit items of interest to Walt Bittle [waltb50@charter.net](mailto:waltb50@charter.net) or John Harris [ce342@swbell.net](mailto:ce342@swbell.net).**

## *2011 - 2012 Campaign (Tentative)*

- September 28, 2011 – Robert J. Wynstra, author of *“The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of the Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson”*.
- October 26, 2011 – Jim Schmidt, author of *“Notre Dame in the Civil War”*.
- December 7, 2011 – Wynn Ward, Saint Louis CWRT member, presentation on *“Christmas in the Civil War”*.
- January 25, 2012 – Randy Fuller, Ph.D., Associate Professor of English, Drury University, author of *“From Battlefields Rising: How the Civil War Transformed American Literature”*.
- February 20, 2012 – Robert G. Schultz, Saint Louis CWRT member, editor of *“General Sterling Price and the Confederacy”* by Thomas C. Reynolds, *“Army Life: From a “Soldier’s Journal, Sketches and Record of a Union Soldier’s Army Life, in Camp and Field”, 1861-1864”* by A.O. Marshall, and *Political Cartoons of the American Civil War*, topic TBD.
- March. 29, 2012 – Joseph T. Glatthar, Ph.D., Stephenson Distinguished Professor, UNC at Chapel Hill, author of *“General Lee’s Army”*, topic TBD.
- April. 25, 2012 – TBD
- May. 23, 2012 – Gail Stephens, a volunteer at the Monocacy National Battlefield, author of *“Shadow of Shiloh, Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War”*.

## *A Note From Our President*

First of all, I’d like to thank John Nischwitz for organizing registration of attendees who arrive after dinner and who are asked to help defray speaker expenses only. For any non-dinner April 27 attendees who missed the mid-April website update notice that the introduction of speakers was changed by the Board from 8 PM to 7:30 PM, I do apologize. The Board made the time change in response to member survey requests for tightened meeting agendas whenever possible.

As a reader, I sometimes get into author grooves. It happened again – even beyond the Steig Larsson trilogy. It’s Shaara: Jeff (*Gods & Generals*, *Last Full Measure*) and his late father, Michael (*Killer Angels*) who, together, walk us through eastern Civil War leadership from the first Bull Run to Appomattox in a riveting way. Ever since getting hooked years ago on Allan Eckert, who wrote about the French and Indian wars, I’ve been open to quality Historic Fiction novels, which is not to say, fictitious history or fantasy. Authors of such tend to be true to history while adding dialog to enhance the telling.

By the way, Jeff Shaara, Randall Fuller (*From Battlefields Rising*), and historian William C. Davis (winner of the Jefferson Davis Award honoring book-length work on Confederate History) will be among numerous book-signing authors September 23, 24, and 25 at the “2011 Missouri Literary Festival” sponsored by the Springfield (MO) Regional Art Council. Looks like a bonanza weekend for historians and family members of all ages.

Phil Baker

## *Silent Auction*

We will hold our third annual Silent Auction at the May 25 meeting. There will be no minimum bids as in past years. Help find a new home for all of these items!! All proceeds from the auction will benefit Civil War battlefield preservation.

## *Events of Interest*

*May 14, 2011*

### **Civil War Book Sale**

Chatillon-DeMenil House book sale. For information, contact Edna Dieterle at 314-892-6175.

*May 14 - 15, 2011*

### **Battle of Carthage Reenactment**

Downtown Carthage, Missouri. For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/521](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/521).

*Through June 5, 2011*

### **The Civil War in Missouri**

Free exhibit at the Old Ordnance Room at Jefferson Barracks Park, Wednesday through Sunday, 12 Noon to 4:00 pm. For information: 314-544-6224.

*Through June 1, 2014*

### **Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing**

"Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing" is an exhibit within the Missouri State Museum, located on the first floor of the State Capitol building in Jefferson City, Missouri. The exhibit will include: "Slavery's Echoes," "Hands-On Civil War", and Civil War Cannon Diorama.

For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/274](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/274).

*June 2011+/-*

**Opening of the Missouri Civil War Museum.** For information: <http://mcwm.org>.

*June 4, 2011, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm*

### **Missouri Confederate Memorial Day**

Confederate Veterans Home Park. Higginsville, MO. Meetings of Confederate Heritage groups in the morning, and a Memorial Service for 800+ buried in the cemetery in the afternoon.

*June 8, 2011, 7:00 pm*

### **Civil War St. Louis**

Presentation and book signing by Professor Louis Gerteis (UMSL) at the Missouri History Museum.

For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org).

*June 17 - 19, 2011*

### **First Battle of Boonville Reenactment**

18000 Rocheport Road, Boonville, MO. For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/547](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/547)

*July 16 - 17, 2011*

### **Battle of Wentzville Reenactment**

On July 15, 1861, four companies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Infantry and two companies of the 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry left St. Louis by train heading west on the North Missouri Railroad Line to Mexico, Missouri. Their mission was to join forces with Col. Franz Sigel. This reenactment will commemorate the running skirmish that took place on that day in 1861. For more information, contact Emmett Taylor at 636-332-5782 or email [eptaylor@mac.com](mailto:eptaylor@mac.com) or visit [www.mocivilwar150.com](http://www.mocivilwar150.com).

*August 6 - 7, 2011*

### **Battle of Athens Reenactment**

Battle of Athens State Historic Site, Revere, MO.

For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/202](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/202).

*August 6 - 7, 2011*

**Fort D Days, Cape Girardeau, MO**

For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com](http://www.mocivilwar150.com) or call Cape Girardeau Convention and Visitors Bureau at 573-335-1631

*August 12 - 14, 2011*

**Wilson's Creek Reenactment 2011**

The Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation is 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) or [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/35](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/35)

*September 17 - 18, 2011*

**Battle of Lexington Reenactment**

Battle of Lexington State Historic Site, downtown Lexington, Missouri and Big River Ranch near Lexington, Missouri. For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com/event/200](http://www.mocivilwar150.com/event/200).

*September 23 - 25 2011*

**Literary Festival: The Civil War & the Battle of Wilson's Creek - The Sesquicentennial**

Springfield, MO. For information: [www.mocivilwar150.com](http://www.mocivilwar150.com).

*October 21 - 23, 2011*

**The Gathering, Battle of Fredericktown Commemoration**

For more information: [www.mocivilwar150.com](http://www.mocivilwar150.com). Descendants of soldiers who fought in the battle should contact Carole Magnus for more information at 573-576-8528 or [magnus@fhphistory.org](mailto:magnus@fhphistory.org).

*November 4 - 5, 2011*

**Third Trans-Mississippi Conference**

Bi-annual Conference of the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO. Watch <http://cwrtozarks.tripod.com> for additional information as it becomes available.

*November 12, 2011*

**Civil War St. Louis Tour**

Visit the opening of "The Civil War in Missouri" exhibit at the Missouri History Museum, the Mercantile Library, Alton Cemetery, and the Elijah Lovejoy Monument. Tour leaders: William Winters and Pam Sanfilippo. Lunch included. For pricing, reservations, and more information, call 314-361-9017 or visit [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org).

*November 12, 2011 – March 16, 2013*

**The Civil War in Missouri**

The Missouri History Museum will have a comprehensive exhibit exploring the complexities of the Civil War in Missouri. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org).

## *April Meeting Recap*

The penultimate meeting of the 2010-2011 Campaign was eventful, as usual. Following two spirited raffles and the mind-numbing trivia, Peter Cozzens related the life and times of General John Rawlins, one of the almost-forgotten men of the Civil War. A right-hand man to General Grant, Rawlins might have been the one person (besides Julia Dent Grant) who could have kept Grant from the evils of "demon rum". It was an excellent presentation, and we are most appreciative that Mr. Cozzens made himself available to share his expertise.

## *150 Years Ago – May through August 1861*

- May 6 Arkansas secedes from the Union.
- May 9 Siege guns provided by Jefferson Davis for the purpose of taking the federal arsenal arrive on the steamer J.C. Swon in boxes marked "marble" and are transported to Camp Jackson. Nathaniel Lyon, dressed as a woman, scouts the camp.
- May 10 Camp Jackson captured by Unionist forces. Twenty-eight people are killed in fighting/shooting incidents in streets following the capture.
- May 12 Governor Jackson appoints ex-Governor and current president of the State Convention, Sterling Price, as Major General commanding the Missouri State Guard.
- May 20 North Carolina secedes from the Union.
- May 23 Virginia secedes from the Union.
- May 31 McDowell Medical College, owned by southern-sympathizer Joseph Nash McDowell, searched and confiscated by Federal authorities. At first the building is used as a barracks. In December it is converted for use as a prison.
- June 8 Tennessee secedes from the Union.
- June 11 The meeting at Planter's House hotel between Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson, Gen. Sterling Price (accompanied by Col. Thomas L. Sned), Nathaniel Lyon, and Frank Blair (accompanied by Maj. Conant) ended with Lyon making the famous proclamation as recorded by Sned: *"Rather than concede to the State of Missouri the right to demand that my Government shall not enlist troops within her limits, or bring troops into the State whenever it pleases, or move its troops at its own will into, out of, or through the State; rather than concede to the State of Missouri for one single instant the right to dictate to my Government in any matter however unimportant, I would see you, and you, and you, and you, and every man, woman, and child in the State, dead and buried. This means war. In an hour one of my officers will call for you and conduct you out of my lines."*
- June 17 Battle of Boonville, Missouri. Union victory.
- July 5 Battle of Carthage, Missouri. Confederate victory.
- July 26 State Convention – shorn of almost all but Unconditional Union Men – reconvenes in Jefferson City.
- July 26 Major General John Charles Fremont arrives in St. Louis to take command of Western Department.
- July 30 State Convention declares vacant all state-wide offices, including Governor and Lieutenant-Governor.
- July 31 State Convention appoints Hamilton R. Gamble as provisional and acting Governor, and Willard P. Hall as Lieutenant-Governor. They are inaugurated the next day (August 1). Missouri now has two governors for her citizens to choose from. Historian William E. Parrish calls this *"one of the most unusual extralegal actions any state ever witnessed"*.
- Aug 5 Governor Jackson declares Missouri to be an Independent State.
- Aug 10 Battle of Wilson's Creek near Springfield, Missouri. Second major battle of the Civil War and a significant Confederate victory. Union General Nathaniel Lyon is left dead on the field. His body is later recovered.
- Aug 14 Martial law declared in St. Louis. Major McKinstry, then acting Quartermaster, is appointed Provost Marshal.
- Aug 30 Martial law declared throughout Missouri by General Fremont.

Source: Civil War St. Louis website ([www.civilwarstlouis.com](http://www.civilwarstlouis.com))

## *Off The Shelf*

***Army Life: From a Soldier's Journal, Sketches and Record of a Union Soldier's Army Life, in Camp and Field, 1861-1864*** by A.O. Marshall (Robert G. Schultz, editor), 2009

Raised on a farm in New Lenox, Illinois, Albert O. Marshall enlisted in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois regiment in September, 1861, at the age of twenty-one. He and the 33<sup>rd</sup> went to fight in Missouri, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, and along the Texas Gulf Coast. In October 1864, at the end of his three-year enlistment, Marshall was discharged from the Army and proceeded to live a successful life as a lawyer and politician. Twenty years after leaving military service, he compiled his memoirs, which he entitled "*Army Life*", to capture the memories of his participation in the war. This detailed retelling of his experience as a soldier provides a pleasant equilibrium in his descriptions of the experiences of combat, campaigning, and camp life of a common Civil War soldier. Probably the greatest value of his journal is its insight into the events of the often overlooked Trans-Mississippi theater of the Civil War. Marshall's narrative offers one of the rare enlisted accounts of the campaigns along the Red River (Louisiana), Matagorda Island (Texas), and Pilot Knob (Missouri).

While giving vivid depictions of the battles and campaigns in which he fought, Marshall also treats the reader to his views of, not only his close comrades, but also the likes of Samuel R. Curtis, Nathaniel Banks, and Ulysses S. Grant. Still, his opinions always maintain a healthy objectivity and balance that avoids the often inflated emotional extremes of patriotic optimism or frustrated disillusionment in the writings of many Civil War diarists. Marshall also punctuates his narrative with several non-military topics, offering various commentaries on social and political issues of the time, such as elections, cotton industry, and his firsthand exposure to the institution of slavery. Editor Robert G. Schultz has left nearly all original text in its original language (only a few minor grammatical changes) and provides superbly documented footnotes to complement Marshall's account with context and scholarly detail. In sum, this book is a welcome addition to the growing collection of soldier's accounts of the war and can be labeled as one of the most valuable.

From Military History of the West, Volume 40 (2010)

## *Off The Wall*

### ***Unionist, Conditional Unionist, or Secessionist***

After the other six states of the Deep South had joined South Carolina in seceding from the Union and forming the Confederate States of America, the remaining eight slave states were still divided over which way to go, with sentiments divided into three basic camps. Unionists felt that their state should remain in the Union no matter what the Confederate States did, and no matter what action the Union took in reaction. Conditional Unionists felt that it was premature to leave the Union and felt that their state should remain in the Union so long as the Union did not try to "coerce" the seceded states to return. Secessionists felt that their state should leave the Union and become part of the new Confederacy. President Lincoln's April 15, 1861 call for 75,000 volunteers for 90 days to put down the rebellion was seen by many Conditional Unionists as "coercion" converting many of them to Secessionists.

These three choices were separate, however, from positions on slavery, as many in all three camps were slave owners and many were not. At this point in history, slavery "where it existed" was not generally being challenged. If you read about the Battle of Wilson's Creek, you will note that the Ray family, on whose farm the battle was being fought, were Unionists who owned slaves. Which position would you have chosen?

Submitted by John Harris

*Editorial Cartoon of the Month*  
*May, 1861*



*Vanity Fair.* May 4, 1861

In Columbia's Garden

Here "Old Abe" is watering his crop with a watering can labeled "Spirit of '76."

The Caption Reads:

OLD ABE:

*Aint there a nice crop?  
There's the hardy Bunker Hill  
flower, the Seventh Regiment  
Pink, the Fireboy Tulip—  
That tricolored flower grows  
near Independence Hall—the  
Western Blossoms and  
Prairie Flowers will soon  
begin to shoot.*

COLUMBIA:

*What charming plant is this?*

OLD ABE:

*That is rare in this country —  
it will bloom shortly and bear  
the Jeffersonia Davisiana.*

During the 2010-2011 "campaign", *Bushwhacker* has included a cartoon that was published 150 years ago (to the month) reflecting editorial comment on current events. Thanks to the efforts of member Bob Schultz, who has created ***Political Cartoons of the American Civil War***, a 52-page book of contemporary cartoons from many sources accompanied by a Powerpoint® disc suitable for presentations to organizations or in school settings to supplement conventional study materials on the Civil War. Available to members for \$10 each (see Bob Schultz at the next meeting) or for \$14.95 postage paid. Contact [waltb50@centurytel.net](mailto:waltb50@centurytel.net) for further details.

*St. Louis Civil War Round Table*  
*April 2011 Trivia*

1. The firm of Fraser, Trenholm & Company of Liverpool was a prominent player in the blockade running. What other major role did this firm play in support of the Confederacy?  
**They guaranteed the Confederate Letters of Credit necessary for purchasing raiders, such as the CSS Florida and the CSS Alabama.**
2. Why did President Lincoln consider letters of marque issued by the Confederacy to be invalid, subjecting their holders to charges of piracy?  
**He refused to recognize the Confederacy as a legitimate government.**
3. What was the training value of the term “Hay foot, straw foot”?  
**It was the technique used to teach raw recruits how to march.**
4. What was a flying telegraph train?  
**A system of battlefield signal communications developed using the Beardslee Telegraph, which was a portable telegraph that provided mobile communications.**
5. Why was the CSS Alabama built of wood?  
**She could be repaired in any port, unlike iron ships.**
6.
  - a. As of 1 April 1861, how many Federal officers held general officer rank, brevet or substantive? **Thirteen**
  - b. By the end of the War how many volunteer, state militia, and regular officers held general officer rank? **Over one-thousand**
  - c. On 16 May 1861, three appointments to Major General of US Volunteers were made. Who were these first three officers who throughout the War outranked all other volunteers?  
**John Dix, Benjamin Butler, and Nathaniel Banks**
  - d. On 17 May 1861, thirty-four were promoted to Major General. Grant was number eighteen in rank order. Who were the first three?  
**Samuel P. Heintzelman, David Hunter, and Erasmus D. Keyes.**
7. What is considered the last major battle of the Civil War?  
**40,000 Federals assaulted Ft. Blakeley, Alabama, on 9 Apr 65 near Mobile.**
8. What was the only Civil War battlefield in the State of Ohio?  
**Buffington Island, Ohio, where John Hunt Morgan fought Union Generals Judah and Hobson on 19 JUL 63.**
9. In what year was the Grand Army of the Republic dissolved?  
**2 August 1956, due to the death of its last surviving member, Albert Woolson, who died in Duluth, MN at the age of 109.**
10. What identifying marker was used to identify Civil War battlefield hospitals to protect them from hostile fire?  
**A yellow flag.**
11. Bugler George H Palmer, of the 1<sup>st</sup> IL Cavalry, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions at the Anderson House in what Missouri battle in 1861?  
**The Battle of Lexington on 18 Sep 1861.**

## *Notes from the Treasurer*

Another campaign is almost over, and again the organization is financially sound because of our 124 members. The CWRT's primary sources of revenue are the membership dues, meetings/meals, and raffles; additional revenue comes from donations and book sales. Our primary expenses include payments for the meals and speakers, liability insurance, and supplies, including those for printing and mailing the Bushwhacker.

We're averaging 85 members per meeting. This number does not include those who come only to hear the speaker. Some of you have asked why we are charging people who choose not to participate in the dinner. This is why: Our net revenue from the meals runs about \$300 - \$350. Expenses for our out-of-town speakers are generally more than \$350. We do not pay a speaker fee, however we pay for the speaker's travel expense (airfare or mileage) and the hotel room. We have arrangements with two hotels – the Pear Tree Inn by the airport and the Best Western in Kirkwood. Typically, the net revenue from the meals does not fully cover the speaker expense. Since our dinner-paying attendees are also helping to pay for the speaker's expense, the Board believes those coming only to hear the speaker should pay a nominal charge as well. Non-members are asked to pay a slightly higher charge. It does help defer some of the expense.

### AND – DID YOU KNOW?

Two members generously donate funds from the sale of their books:

- **William C. Winter** has been donating the royalties he receives from sales at the Missouri History Museum of his book ***The Civil War in St. Louis: A Guided Tour.*** I'm not sure how long Mr. Winter has been doing this, but at least as long as I've been in the Treasurer position. THANK YOU!!
- **Bob Schultz** donated the cost of printing ***Political Cartoons of the American Civil War.*** Going forward, all sales should be a profit for the CWRT. THANK YOU!!

### AND – ONE MORE THING

This is my last term as treasurer. I have enjoyed greeting so many of you at the meetings – and “taking your money”! I am grateful for the support I've received from the Board. The knowledge, interest, and dedication of your Board members are what helps to make this group a success. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep this organization going and try to help it grow. Please take a minute to thank them – they do what they do for you!

**Mary Riggs**

## *And Off to the Book Store:*

The 2010 Pulitzer Prize for History was awarded to:  
*The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* by Eric Foner