



# ***The Bushwhacker***

## **September 2011**

### **The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis**

*“The Rashness of That Hour”*

Robert J. Wynstra



Robert J. Wynstra recently retired as a senior writer for the News and Public Affairs Office in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in history and a Master's degree in journalism, all from the University of Illinois. Rob has been researching Alfred Iverson's role in the Civil War for more than ten years. He is finishing work on a study of Robert Rodes' Division in the Gettysburg Campaign. He will be speaking on his book *“The Rashness of That Hour: Politics, Gettysburg, and the Downfall of Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson”*, which was recently published by Savas-Beatie.

Probably no commander in the Army of Northern Virginia suffered more damage to his reputation at Gettysburg than did Brig. Gen. Alfred Holt Iverson. In little more than an hour during the early afternoon of July 1, 1863, much of his brigade (the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> North Carolina regiments) was slaughtered in front of a stone wall on Oak Ridge. Amid rumors that he was a drunk, a coward, and had slandered his own troops, Iverson was stripped of his command less than a week after the battle and before the campaign had even ended.

After months of internal feuding and behind-the-scenes political maneuvering, the survivors of Iverson's ill-fated brigade had no doubt about who to blame for their devastating losses. What remained unanswered was the lingering uncertainty of how such a disaster could have happened. Rob's decade-long investigation draws upon a wealth of newly discovered and previously unpublished sources to provide readers with fresh perspectives and insights. The result is an engrossing chronicle of how the brigade's politics, misadventures, and colorful personalities combined to bring about one of the Civil War's most notorious blunders.

Copies of *The Rashness of That Hour* will be available for purchase at the meeting for \$20.

**MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 28, 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 SEPTEMBER 21 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).**

## *Upcoming Speakers*

- October 26, 2011 – “*Notre Dame and the Civil War, Marching Onward to Victory*”, by Jim Schmidt, author of *Notre Dame in the Civil War*
- December 7, 2011 – “*The War and the Churches*” by Saint Louis CWRT member Wynn Ward
- January 25, 2012 – “*From Battlefields Rising*” by 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 – “*TBD*” by Saint Louis CWRT member Robert G. Schultz, 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*
- March. 29, 2012 – “*TBD*” by UNC at Chapel Hill’s Stephenson Distinguished Professor, Joseph T. Glatthar, Ph.D., author of *General Lee’s Army*
- April. 25, 2012 – “*Civil War Fractional Currency*” by Robert Kravitz
- May. 23, 2012 – “*Major General Lew Wallace*” by Monocacy National Battlefield volunteer Gail Stephens, author of *Shadow of Shiloh, Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War*

## *A Note From Our President*

There is a common saying that we must study the cause and effects of history in order to learn from the mistakes of the past. In the grand scheme of things, the Sesquicentennial and study of the American Civil War may not seem important. Who cares? After all, we are fighting 2.5 wars (Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya), the economy is in the tank, and we are getting ready to flush our future down the drain. Well I care, for I believe that the study of the American Civil War is vital.

Divisiveness racked the country; nasty, belligerent political campaigns ran through the press; our elected officials bickered over taxes and expenditures; “soak the rich”, “watch out for the common man” and calls for “free businesses to grow”, echoed on the streets and wherever citizens gathered. Everything was in play. On immigration, should we be open door or close the door? The end is nigh and the American Dream dying. These were common themes of the 1850’s, 1860’s, and today.

We are commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bloodiest war in our short history, and the public and private response has been disappointing. Fifty years ago, the American Civil War was everywhere. Today, even with the explosion of media, it is an afterthought – when thought of at all.

Speak with your friends about the Sesquicentennial, and invite them to a meeting. There are exciting things happening within the Civil War community, but the public is fairly ignorant of all that is going on around them. Go see grown men and women reenact the life and the battles; it can be a lot of fun. Read a book – I can suggest many that are both informative and easy to read. Engage your neighbor in a conversation of how history repeats; you may kindle their interest.

Abraham Lincoln called on volunteers for 90 days to save the Union; I am asking you to spread the word. Let’s make this Sesquicentennial something special.

Mike Scully

## *May Meeting Recap*

Attendance at the final meeting of the 2010-2011 Campaign was limited by a cluster of thunderstorms with their attendant hail and tornado warnings. Nevertheless, those who could manage to bypass the storms were treated to an excellent program. Throughout the meeting, numerous items were arrayed for bid in a silent auction – and the bidding was spirited. John’s trivia questions were up to their usual standard, as was the multi-media presentation by Earl J. Hess, who spoke on “*Soldier Life in the Trenches at Petersburg*”.

New Officers for 2011-2012 were introduced as follows: President, Mike Scully – Vice President, Bill Jackson – Secretary, Murnai Winter – Treasurer, Curt Wittbracht.

## *Events of Interest*

*Late 2011 – date still uncertain due to construction delays*

**Opening of the Missouri Civil War Museum.**

For information: <http://mcwm.org>.

*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 more information: [www.missouriliteraryfestival.org](http://www.missouriliteraryfestival.org).

*October 5, 2011, 7:00 pm*

**Book Discussion Group, Kirkwood Public Library**

Presentation on Adam Goodheart's 1861, *The Civil War Awakening* by Round Table member Harold Knudsen

*(editor's note, watch for Phil Baker's book review in next month's Bushwacker!)*

*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**

Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks, Springfield, MO.

**Postponed – Details to follow**

*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).

*November 15, 2011, Noon – 1:00 pm*

**Indian Warriors: The Untold Story of the Civil War**

Mike Schroepel reports that The Missouri History Museum will be showing this film in the AT&T Room and invites any "old timers" to join him in viewing the film.

## *150 Years Ago – September 1861*

Sept 2	“Battle of the Mules”, Dry Wood Creek, Missouri
Sept 15	Colonel Frank P. Blair arrested by General John C. Fremont
Sept 17	Battle of Liberty or Blue Mills, Missouri
Sept 18-20	“Battle of the Hemp Bales”, Lexington, Missouri
Sept 24	General Samuel R. Curtis assumed command of the city of St. Louis and vicinity

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

### *Off The Shelf*

#### ***Did Lincoln Own Slaves? And Other Frequently Asked Questions About Abraham Lincoln***

by Gerald J. Prokopowicz

Currently a professor at East Carolina University, the author spent nine years as a scholar-in-residence at the (now defunct) Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He seems to have heard all the questions, and now he is providing some of the answers to those questions – about 250 of them.

The latest review, in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, had this to say about the author: “*His answers are terse, succinct in their elaborations, frequently witty, and documented in 30 pages of endnotes.*”

Sounds good to me.

Submitted by Walt Bittle

### *Off The Wall*

#### ***The Exception Principle***

Ever hear of the Exception Principle? I learned over the years that useful feedback is rare, and that negative feedback usually greatly exceeds positive feedback. When the majority of feedback is negative (bosses don't waste their time telling you that you're doing it right) or ambiguous (you're doing a good job), it's hard to decide what to change. In fact, the Exception Principle says not to change anything unless someone takes exception to what you're doing.

So Walt and I continue, based on the Exception Principle, to provide The Bushwhacker with the same format, information, and style. You may think that's great or you may think it's awful, but the only way that Walt and I will know is if you “take exception”.

Many publications include “Letters to the Editor” sections, but as far as I know we've never received a “Letter to the Editor”. And where are your contributions? We occasionally get book reviews to include, and this month includes a very interesting write-up from Bob Lawyer about his Civil War ancestor. But where are your contributions? When are you going to send us your story about visiting Civil War sites, Civil War ancestors, obscure history notes ...

Or at least just “take exception” if there's something you don't like.

Submitted by John Harris

### *Trivia Question:*

What resident of Sacramento, California had almost unlimited access to the inner circles of the White House during the Civil War years?

Noah Brooks (whose pen name was “Castine”), correspondent for the *Sacramento Daily Union*, former resident of Illinois, and friend of Abraham Lincoln.

## *A Civil War Relative*

**George J. Lawyer** by Bob Lawyer

George wasn't my ancestor, but I'm reasonably convinced that he was a relative of my direct ancestors. Years ago, my Dad passed on to me a family oral history about a relative who had served in the Civil War under General Kearney. By searching through genealogical and Civil War files, I believe I found my relative, George J. Lawyer of New Jersey. George enlisted on April 26, 1861 as a 90-day volunteer. He joined the Second Regiment, Company C of New Jersey Infantry. This unit was part of General Philip Kearney's First New Jersey Brigade. The Regiment was at First Bull Run on July 21, where they served as a reserve. George was mustered out on July 31 when his 90 day enlistments expired.

He re-enlisted and was mustered into Company C of the Fifth New Jersey Regiment (Infantry) as a First Sergeant. This unit saw some fighting around Washington, D.C and then moved to the Virginia Peninsula for General McClellan's Peninsula Campaign. His unit was evacuated at Harrison's Landing, Virginia on August 15, 1862. The Fifth Regiment fought at the Second Battle of Bull Run and at Chantilly September 1. General Kearney was killed here, though the unit wasn't under his command at the time.

George's Regiment was assigned to cover Washington, D.C. during the battle of Antietam. They were on the field at the Battle of Fredericksburg, but most likely the Fifth was never ordered forward. George was promoted to First Lieutenant and transferred to Company F on March 1, 1863. This put him in the middle of the Battle of Chancellorsville. George was wounded in this battle and left for dead. That was the end of the war for him.

Interestingly, from historical reports of the battle and George's official records I can be fairly certain where and when he was wounded. The Union army crossed the Rappahannock River in April 1863 to attack Lee. General Hooker stopped his army in a heavily wooded area near Chancellorsville. George and his regiment were left to guard the river crossing. Stonewall Jackson routed the Union army in the first day of the battle. Jackson's attack was only stopped by lack of daylight and because his men had become scattered in the pursuit. Jackson made his nighttime reconnaissance and was killed by his own men. About 2:00 am, George's unit was brought up to the front lines and placed in reserve. They were part of General Daniel Sickles' Division.

About 5:00 am, Hooker ordered Sickles' Corps to fall back to a line near the Fairview House, a place on the Chancellor farm where the overseer lived. Lee attacked here, trying to capture the Union Army. The fighting was heavy with several attacks and counterattacks. The brigade was withdrawn only when they ran out of ammunition. It's almost certain that George was wounded here. His unit was not engaged until then, and the fighting was fierce. The Fifth Regiment had charged into the rebel lines. The unit was withdrawn – probably without carrying off its casualties. The initial reports show him as killed in action. He was actually badly wounded and had been captured by the Confederates. He had been shot through his left lung.

Amazingly, George survived the wound and was paroled on May 15. He was sent to a convalescent hospital in Washington, D.C. In a little over a month, George returned to New Jersey and married Caroline Jennings there on July 4. He was officially discharged from the army the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 1865. He died July 4, 1897. Cause of death was reported as "fatty degeneration of the heart and pleurisy with effusion."

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



“A Family Quarrel,” *Punch*, September 28, 1861.

John Tenniel (1820-1914) was a cartoonist, often used by the English humor magazine, *Punch*. Uncle Sam, the “master” of the home (the United States) confronts his angry wife, the Secesh South. Uncle Sam wears the traditional starred shirt and striped pants while his wife’s apron is the flag of the Confederacy. The house is in a shambles – tipped, broken furniture, and piled rugs. Each is holding part of a torn United States map, a symbol often used for secession. Also note the black servant tiptoeing away in the background. English and American plays often used such eavesdropping servants as part of their plot and such exaggerated mannerisms were common.

Member Bob Schultz 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@charter.net](mailto:waltb50@charter.net) for further details.

# *St. Louis Civil War Round Table*

## *May 2011 Trivia*

1. What was the Grand Review and how long did it take?

It was the last review of the Federal armies of the Potomac and Tennessee in Washington, DC on 23-24 May 1865. An estimated 150,000 soldiers marched before President Johnson and the Commanding Generals before they were discharged. The AOP marched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the AOT on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Gen. Sherman insisted that the ambulances with bloody stretchers be part of the column of the AOT.

2. What Officer served as governor of the Confederate Territory of Arizona? He was part of the command that took Gen. Twiggs' surrender in San Antonio. He was removed as governor in 1862 and his commission revoked for an order he gave regarding treatment of Apaches. He then enlisted and served as a private soldier in the Galveston Campaign. A major Texas University bears his family name. But it was named after his uncle.

**John Robert Baylor**

3. What famous Confederate vessel had as its motto, "Aide-toi et Dieu t'aidera"?

**CSS Alabama. The meaning is "God helps those who help themselves".**

4. Gen Dan Butterfield was the son of a successful businessman. What company did his father, John, co- found?

**John Butterfield founded American Express along with Messer's Henry Wells, William Fargo. He was also the principle in the Butterfield Express Company which carried the mail and passengers on the Butterfield Stage from St. Louis to San Francisco, a twenty-three day trip.**

What benefit did his father's company bestow on his son, who was the superintendent of the eastern division?

**He was paid his salary the entire time he was in the Army – as was every other American Express employee who volunteered to serve, but they only received one half pay. Conscripts raised through the Draft were not given this benefit.**

4. What was the critical logistical implication of the Trent Affair that motivated President Lincoln to accede to Britain's demand for an apology?

**Because the only major commercial source of sodium nitrate was in India, England effectively controlled the ability of The United States to make gunpowder. Gunpowder was also critically in demand for mining gold and silver (financing the war) and coal (required by the Navy).**

5. Who was the 77<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry Colonel that led the 1864 prisoner escape from Richmond's Libby Prison?

**Col. Thomas Rose. 108 escaped on the night of 9 Feb 64 and 59 made it to safety. Unfortunately, Rose was recaptured and remained incarcerated until exchanged 30Apr 65.**

6. What was the Louisiana Relief Committee and what was its humanitarian role?

**In May 1863, Gen. Banks ordered the deportation of all New Orleans citizens who refused to take the oath of allegiance to the US. Approximately 700 families moved from New Orleans with little but the clothes on their backs. The LRC was organized by citizens of Mobile, AL to provide food, medical care, shelter, and transportation for the refugees from June 1863 to September 1864. They also assumed responsibility for their mail.**

7. On 18 Oct 1862, ten Confederate prisoners were executed in reprisal for the assumed murder of one Andrew Allsman, a 60-year old Unionist carpenter, in Northeast Missouri. What is the name that this event has come to be called?

**"The Palmyra Massacre", was ordered by Brevet BG John McNeil, who was given the nickname of "The Butcher of Palmyra".**

# Civil War Round Table of St. Louis

2011 – 2012 Enlistment  
(Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Send *Bushwhacker* by E-mail? \_\_\_\_ or US Mail? \_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Yearly Dues:

Individuals – \$35

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Students – \$10

\*Make checks payable to *CWRT St. Louis* and mail to:

CWRT St. Louis  
PO Box 220982  
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- OR -

Submit payment to Murnai Winter, Secretary,  
at the next meeting