



# *The Bushwhacker*

**March 2012**

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

*“Robert E. Lee, the Army of Northern Virginia,  
and the Narrowing Margin for Error”*

*Joseph T. Glatthaar, PhD*



Joseph T. Glatthaar, PhD, is the Stephenson Distinguished Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Glatthaar specializes in and teaches courses on the American Civil War and American military history at the undergraduate and graduate levels. His Civil War related books include *General Lee's Army: From Victory to Defeat* (2008), *The Civil War in the West, 1863-1865* (2001), *Partners in Command: Relationships Between Civil War Leaders* (1994), *Forged in Battle: The Civil War Alliance of Black Soldiers and White Officers* (1990), *The March to the Sea and Beyond: Sherman's Troops in the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns* (1986), *Black Soldiers in the Civil War* (1996), *Leaders of the Lost Cause: Confederate High Command in the Civil War*, edited with Gary L. Gallagher (2004).

When Union president Abraham Lincoln called for militia to assist in quelling the “rebellion” in the seceding states, Confederate president Jefferson Davis had to formulate a strategy that would gain independence against overwhelming Union advantages in manpower and resources. The only way the Confederacy could win, Davis realized, was to convince the Union that the price of reunion was too high, that the cost in bloodshed and treasure was not worth the restoration of the Union.

No Confederate field command fulfilled strategic objectives like the Army of Northern Virginia. It continually punished and repulsed Union advances and several times carried the war into the Northern states. Yet as the war extended into the second, third, and eventually fourth years, that lopsided advantage of manpower and resources became more and more burdensome. The margin for Confederate error dwindled, and fissures appeared in every institution and every facet of Confederate life. Even in General Robert E. Lee's army, those cracks became manifest. And despite Herculean efforts on the part of Lee and his troops, they ultimately succumbed to that overwhelming strength.

This talk will discuss those extraordinary hardships, sacrifices, and deeds of Lee and his men and how Union forces, after four long years of war, finally overcame them. I will argue that as the war extended, the margin for Confederate error dwindled. The new nation could not rely on an abundance to compensate for losses and errors. Hardships abounded and increased for the Army of Northern Virginia, and only the commitment of the men to their cause and their belief in Lee himself kept them in place, despite staggering casualties and sacrifices.

**MEETING DATE: MARCH 28, 2012**

**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 MARCH 14 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)**

## *A Note From Our President*

Dear Friends,

Our organization is dedicated to the Civil War. We study the causes, the personalities, and the battles out of a love of history. We also are dedicated to preserving history. We donate funds at the end of the campaign for land (battlefield) preservation, educational programs, and the promotion of the war so it is never forgotten.

Currently we are suffering from a problem which has plagued us off and on through the years. People make reservations, and then don't show for the meeting. It is understandable when bad weather occurs and the turnout suffers. It is, however, inexcusable to make a reservation and then not show up for no good reason. If this sounds harsh, I am sorry, but it is true. We are contractually obligated to pay for 75 meals minimum, even if we only have 50 or 60 reservations. This usually occurs during the winter months. We understand the lower turnout, hoping for better, but accepting the fact that the December, January, and February meetings are smaller than the "warm" weather meetings. There is also a problem with our warm weather meetings when we have a larger group of people making reservations, then not showing up. Once again we have to pay, not only for the minimum, but for the total reservation count. This can cost us hundreds of dollars which would be better spent on our year-end grants.

Please, if you intend on coming to the meeting, make a reservation. If you think you may but probably will not make a meeting, do not make a reservation. If you change your mind, you are still welcome. Two Hearts usually prepares a bit extra in case of a higher turnout.

I am going to propose a change to our schedule at the April meeting. We would meet March, April, and May at Two Hearts; we would have a summer picnic in July; then have meetings at Two Hearts in August, September, October, and in November (probably the week before Thanksgiving). This new schedule would, I believe, help us with scheduling speakers and increase attendance at our meetings.

There would be a transition period next Fall, with an abbreviated campaign covering September, October, and either the new date in November or the scheduled date in December. I have been in contact with the speakers scheduled for December 2012, January and February 2013, and there is no problem with re-scheduling.

Since this is such a big move for the membership, I am going to dedicate a block of time for discussion at the March meeting. If anyone has any concerns, please feel free to contact me via e-mail at [SCULCIVWAR@aol.com](mailto:SCULCIVWAR@aol.com). I thank all the members of the Round Table in advance for giving consideration to my proposal.

Sincerely, Mike

## *2012 – 2013 Campaign*

- September 26, 2012 - "The Capture of New Orleans" by Dale Phillips, NPS
- October 24, 2012 - "The Battle of Ball's Bluff" by Jim Morgan, historian
- December 5, 2012 - "Iron Brigade" by Lance J. Herdegen, historian and author
- January 23, 2013 - "The Civil War in Film" by Diane Mutti-Burke, Professor of History, UMKC
- February 27, 2013 - "One Man's Story of the Civil War" by Tim Heggemeier, CWRT St Louis
- March 27, 2013 – "The Battle of South Mountain" by Tom Clemens, historian and author
- April 24, 2013 - "Abraham Lincoln" by Harold Holzer, historian and author
- May 22, 2013 - TBD

## *Upcoming Speakers*

- 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*

## *Events of Interest*

*2012 – date still uncertain due to construction delays*

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

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

***Now Through March 16, 2013***

***The Civil War in Missouri***

Comprehensive exhibit exploring the complexities of the Civil War in Missouri at the Missouri History Museum. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

***Now Through June 1, 2014***

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

Artifacts and documents about the stories of everyday Missourians. Daily 8:00 am – 5:00 pm except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter. Missouri State Capitol Museum, 201 W. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

***March 6 through 27, 2012, 6:00 pm***

***Talking Circles – The Civil War in Missouri***

Join facilitated discussions in which participants are invited to reflect on that they've learned after visiting the *Missouri in the Civil War* exhibit. Missouri History Museum, Millstone Learning Center. Free. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

***Sunday, March 11, 2012, 2:30 pm***

***Women and the Civil War***

Presentation by Dr. Silvana Siddali (St. Louis University) of the stories of the legions of women who took on duties formerly handled by males as tens of thousands of young men left their homes in the spring of 1861. Missouri History Museum, AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room, Free.

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

***Sunday, March 18, 2012, 2:30 pm***

***The Sultana, the Titanic of the Mississippi***

Presentation by Alicia Scott, a descendant of one of the *Sultana's* survivors, shares the story of the ill-fated journey into history. Missouri History Museum, AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room, Free.

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

***Tuesdays, March 20, 27, and April 10, 17, 2012, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm***

***The Civil War in Missouri: A Four Part Class***

Round Table member and author Robert Schultz will present this four part class about the role of Missouri in the Civil War. Missouri History Museum, AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room, \$30 per person (\$25 for Museum members) for all four classes. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

*Friday, March 23, 2012, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon*

***Civil War 24/7: Researching Civil War Soldiers & Regiments on the Internet***

Free presentation by librarian Tom Pearson at Buder Branch, Saint Louis Public Library. Registration recommended, but not required. To register or for more information: [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org).

*Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7:00 pm*

***The Myth of Willie Lynch and “How to Make a Slave”***

Presentation by Dr. Jelani Cobb (Spelman College) revealing why he regards the speech purportedly made in Virginia in 1712 regarding control of slaves as a hoax. Missouri History Museum, Lee Auditorium, Free. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)

*Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 7:00 pm*

***Kirkwood Public Library American Civil War Series Book Discussion Group***

Harold Knudsen will speak about “General Longstreet”

*Thursday, April 26, 2012, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon*

***Honor the Fallen: Finding Death & Burial Information for American Soldiers and Veterans, 1775 - 2012***

Free presentation by librarian Tom Pearson at Buder Branch, Saint Louis Public Library. Registration recommended, but not required. To register or for more information: [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org)

*Saturday, May 12, 2012, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon*

***Salt Beef and Blue Mass: Civil War Supply and Transportation***

Free presentation by librarian Tom Pearson at Buder Branch, Saint Louis Public Library. Registration recommended, but not required. To register or for more information: [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org)

*Thursday, June 7 through Sunday, June 10, 2012*

***Civil War Trust Annual Conference***

Richmond, Virginia. For information: [www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/](http://www.civilwar.org/aboutus/events/)

## *Off The Shelf*

***Military Ballooning During The Early Civil War***

by F. Stansbury Haydon (The Johns Hopkins University Press)

This book was copyrighted in 1941, updated in 1968, and reissued in 2000. It is a fascinating account of “what might have been”, had the art and science of ballooning not been so primitive. The author obviously did extensive research, and the book is footnoted as well as indexed.

This well-written book covers one of the lesser known aspects of the time period generally, and its minimal effect on the war specifically. Because ballooning was so primitive, its practitioners were rarely given a chance to prove their effectiveness in actual combat situations. The balloon corps was relegated to civilian status, and at times they had to beg, borrow, and steal military supplies and personnel just to stay aloft.

I think we can all picture situations later in the war when an observation balloon might have saved the day, but unfortunately, there were none.

Submitted by Walt Bittle

## *Decorating the Flags*

During the meeting of December 2011, members approved the concept of decorating the Round Table flags with the Missouri Civil War Battles, placing the Union victories on the US Flag and the Confederate victories on the Confederate Flag. These are the battles:

### **Missouri Civil War Battles**

Union Victories (on blue ribbon)

**CAMP JACKSON 10 MAY 61**

**BOONVILLE 17 JUN 61**

**OSCEOLA 22 SEP 61**

**FREDERICKTOWN 21 OCT 61**

**SPRINGFIELD 25 OCT 61**

**BELMONT 7 NOV 61**

**MT. ZION CHURCH 28 DEC 61**

**ROAN'S TAN YARD 8 JAN 62**

**NEW MADRID 28 FEB-8 APR 62**

**KIRKSVILLE 6-9 AUG 62**

**SPRINGFIELD 8 JAN 63**

**CAPE GIRARDEAU 26 APR 63**

**PILOT KNOB 27 SEP 64**

**BYRAM'S FORD 22-23 OCT 64**

**WESTPORT 23 OCT 64**

**MARMITON RIVER 25 OCT 64**

**NEWTONIA 28 OCT 64**

Confederate victories (on gray ribbon)

**CARTHAGE 5 JUL 61**

**WILSON'S CREEK 10 AUG 61**

**DRY WOOD CREEK 2 SEP 61**

**1<sup>ST</sup> LEXINGTON 13-20 SEP 61**

**LIBERTY 17 SEP 61**

**INDEPENDENCE 11 AUG 62**

**LONE JACK 15-16 AUG 62**

**NEWTONIA 30 SEP 62**

**CLARK'S MILL 7 NOV 62**

**HARTVILLE 9-11 JAN 63**

**GLASCOW 15 OCT 64**

**2<sup>ND</sup> LEXINGTON 19 OCT 64**

**LITTLE BLUE RIVER 21 OCT 64**

**INDEPENDENCE 22 OCT 64**

## *150 Years Ago – March 1862*

- March 6-8 “Wild Bill” Hickock provides US intelligence as USA defeats CSA at the Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern, Bentonville), Arkansas.
- March 9 Ironclad *USS Monitor* battles *CSS Virginia* to a standoff.
- March 17 Having ignored Lincoln’s order to move by February 22, McClellan finally begins his “Peninsula Campaign” to take Richmond from the east.
- March 28 USA defeats CSA at Glorieta Pass (Pigeon’s Ranch) near Santa Fe, New Mexico – the so-called “Gettysburg of the West”.

## *Officers for the 2011-2012 Campaign*

President – Mike Scully  
Vice President – Bill Jackson  
Secretary – Murnai Winter  
Asst. Secretary – Ed Rataj  
Treasurer – Curt Wittbracht  
Asst. Treasurer – Harold Knudsen  
Board Member – Bob Buxton  
Board Member – Larry Lapinski

Board Member – Gary Scheel  
Board Member – Bob Katsev  
Board Member – John Mullen  
Board Member – Barry Rinderknecht  
Board Member – Greg Wolk  
Board Member – Phil Baker  
Board Member – Harold Knudsen  
Bushwhacker Editor – Walt Bittle  
Assistant Editor – John Harris

## *Off The Wall*

### *Historical Footnote or Martyr?*

Elijah Parish Lovejoy (1802-1837) was a Presbyterian Minister, journalist, newspaper editor, and abolitionist. He worked as an editor of the *St. Louis Observer*. His editorials criticized slavery and other church denominations. In May 1836, after anti-abolitionist opponents in St. Louis destroyed his printing press for the third time, Lovejoy left Saint Louis and moved across the river to Alton in the free state of Illinois. In 1837, he started the *Alton Observer*, also an abolitionist paper. On November 7, 1837, a pro-slavery mob attacked the warehouse where Lovejoy had his fourth printing press. Lovejoy was killed when he and his supporters exchanged gunfire with the mob. Initial plans for a Lovejoy monument at Alton City Cemetery began in the 1850’s but weren’t realized until the 1890’s.

John Brown (1800-1859) was an abolitionist who, in the 1850’s, advocated and practiced armed insurrection as a means to abolish slavery in the United States. He led the 1856 Pottawatomie Massacre in “Bleeding Kansas”, during which five men were killed. Brown’s attempt in 1859 to start a liberation movement among enslaved African Americans in Harpers Ferry, Virginia, electrified the nation. He was tried for the murder of five pro-slavery Southerners, inciting a slave insurrection, as well as treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia. Found guilty on all counts, he was hanged. The first Northern antislavery reaction to Brown’s Raid was one of baffled reproach. William Lloyd Garrison called the raid “misguided, wild, and apparently insane”.

So . . . footnote or martyr?

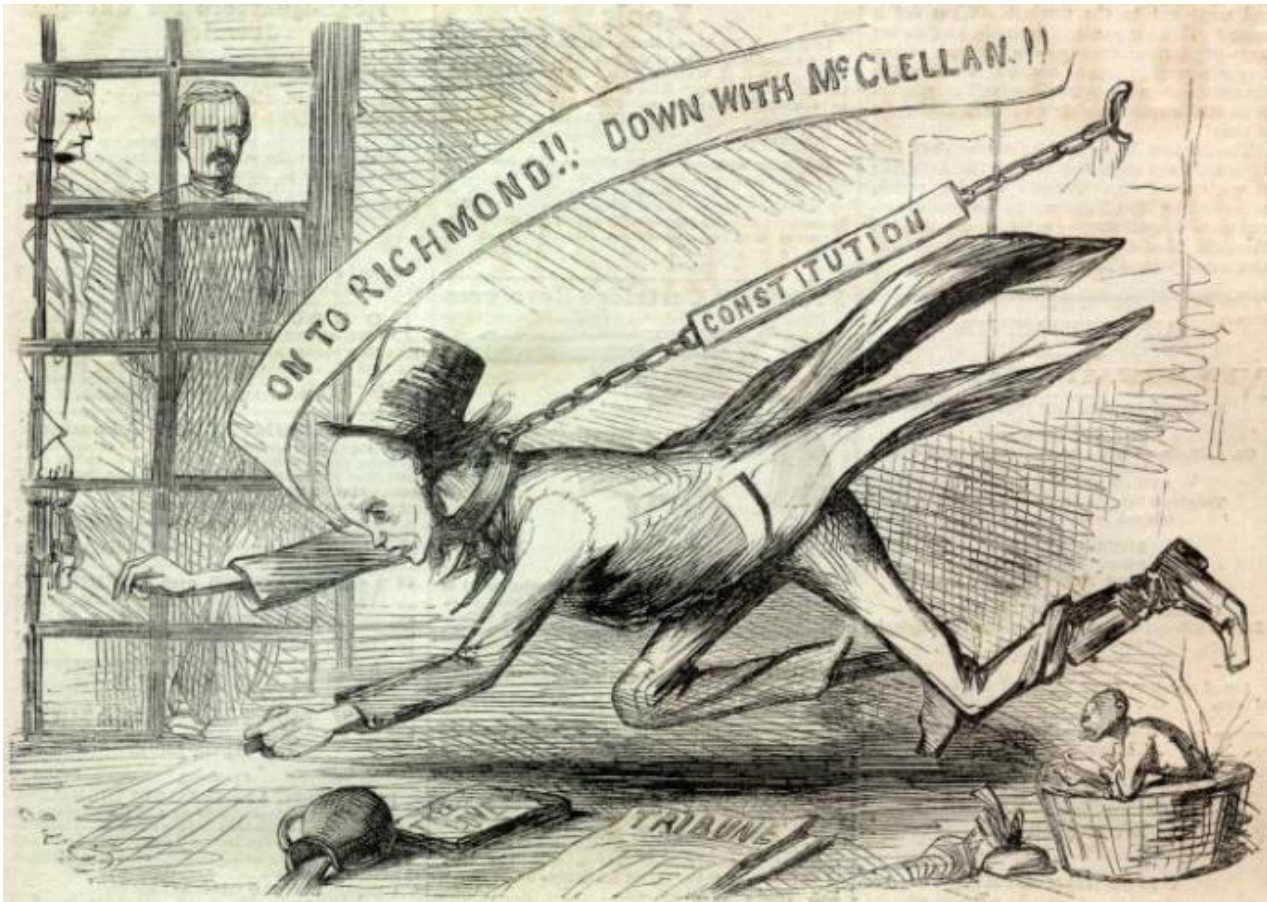
Submitted by John Harris

### **Book Sale at the Chatillon-DeMenil House – May 19 and 20.**

Please bring any books, audio cassettes, DVD’s, magazines, or whatever to the March or April meetings – give them to Edna Dieterle. To arrange for pickup, call Edna at 314-892-6175.

All money raised goes to the support and maintenance of the beautiful Civil War-era Chatillon-DeMenil House – a St. Louis landmark.

## Editorial Cartoon of the Month



(Scene – a Private Lunatic Asylum.)

Harper's, March 29, 1862

*Keeper: "Yes sir, one of our incurables. Dangerous, you ask? No, not at all. Lately he has been rather rabid, but we keep him in check, as you see. Take Food? Yes, sir, but sparingly; he has Strange Notions on that point, and no doubt has injured his brain by Eccentric Feeding. Noisy? Oh, very! Sometimes makes such a Row that he disturbs all the other patients. What are his Delusions, you say? Why, he has so many it's hard to remember 'em. Sometimes he fancies he's a General and sometimes he thinks he's a Nigger, but oftenest he gets it into his head that he's a Newspaper Editor, which is the drollest of all – ha! ha! Ha!"*

*Gen. McC --- N: "Ah! Indeed! Poor Greeley! I heartily pity him!"*

Horace Greeley was the Editor of the *New York Tribune*, and in many ways an eccentric. His attire in even the hottest weather included a full-length coat, and he was never without an umbrella. Greeley used the paper to promote first the Whig and then Republican parties, as well as a rabid opposition to slavery and a host of reforms ranging from vegetarianism to socialism, spiritualism, and phrenology.

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.

# *Civil War Round Table of St. Louis*

## *February 2012 Trivia*

1. How many Black Surgeons served in the Union Army during the Civil War?  
**Eight degreed surgeons and five non-degreed. John Van Surly DeGrasse, 35<sup>th</sup> US Colored Troops, was the only surgeon to serve in the field with his regiment. Anderson Ruffin Abbott was the only Black Canadian licensed physician. (He kept notes on Lincoln's condition, and Mrs. Lincoln presented him the shawl Lincoln wore that night at Ford's Theater.) Maj. Martin Robinson Delaney, 104<sup>th</sup> USCT, was one of the first to achieve field grade rank. Maj. Alexander T. Augusta, 7<sup>th</sup> USCT, William B. Ellis, 4<sup>th</sup> USCT, and William P. Powell, 127<sup>th</sup> USCT, were unit surgeons. Most Black surgeons were assigned to hospitals or recruiting stations because white doctors refused to serve with them. Other Black surgeons were Benjamin Boseman, Cortland Van Rensselaer Creed, J.D. Harris, Charles Burleigh Purvis, John H. Rapier, Willis R. Revels, Charles H. Taylor, and Alpheus W. Tucker.**
2. Who was Colonel John Harris, and what unique command position did he hold?  
**He was the Commandant of the US Marine Corps until 12 May 1864, when he was succeeded by Jacob Zeilin, who held the position until 1876. The Corps was at a recruiting disadvantage, as they had a longer enlistment period and did not pay a bounty, as did state units. Their authorized strength was about 3000, and during the Civil War, 4157 Officers and Men were fielded. They had battalion size units at the Landing at New Orleans, 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run, and at Fort Fisher. It was a detachment of Marines who captured John Brown at Harpers Ferry in 1859 and tracked down Nat Turner thirty years earlier.**
3. What future Presidents paid substitutes to serve for them during the Civil War?  
**Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland (he paid \$150), and Chester A. Arthur (even though Arthur was a Quartermaster General of New York with the rank of Brigadier – and could not be mustered into service.**
4. What was the source of the 1140 dead Confederates buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery?  
**The Federal Military Prisons in St. Louis, the Gratiot Street Prison, the Myrtle Street Prison, and hospital boats on the Mississippi River.**
5. What was the original name considered for the area of western Virginia that became the thirty-fifth state?  
**Kanawha (pronounced Kuh-NAH-wuh or often slurred to kuh-NAW), because Charleston, the capital city, was in Kanawha County. The capital was moved to Wheeling (and eventually back to Charleston).**
6. What five-shot single action English revolver was the favorite of Confederate cavalry?  
**The Kerr Patent Revolver. Designed by James Kerr in 1855, it was produced by the London Armoury Company in .36 and .44 calibre models from 1859 to 1866. The later production was “double action”, although the earlier pistols were “single action”. The Confederacy purchased around 10,000 through Maj. Caleb Huse.**
7. What is the difference between a single action and a double action revolver?  
**In “single action”, the revolver must be manually cocked, which causes the cylinder to revolve. In “double action”, the trigger-pull cocks the pistol and rotates the cylinder with the same motion.**
8. At the end of the Movie *Amistad*, a British warship blasts into destruction the Lomboko slave castle in Sierra Leone, and the captain dictates a letter to the US Secretary of State that the fort is destroyed. This was an emotional statement, but begged the truth. The irony is that there were How Many more slave forts along the Gold Coast of West Africa?  
**There were forty (40) or more slave forts in Sierra Leone alone.**

**For the trivia quiz at the March 28 meeting, you will need pen or pencil.  
I guarantee that anyone who can write will get at least one question correct.**