



# *The Bushwhacker*

May 2012

## The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

*“The Shadow of Shiloh; Major General  
Lew Wallace in the Civil War”*

*by Gail Stephens*



In the spring of 1862, Major General Lew Wallace was a Union military hero. At the age of 35, he was the youngest Major General in the Union Army, rising to that rank from Colonel in eleven short months. Then in early April 1862, though only a short distance away, Wallace mysteriously failed to appear on the bloody battlefield of Shiloh until the end of the first day. The common perception is that this was a death blow to his career until Lincoln decided to give him another chance, assigning him to command in Maryland where, in the summer of 1864, with his army vastly outnumbered, Wallace fought the battle of Monocacy, “the battle that saved Washington,” restoring his fighting reputation. The truth, however, is never that simple. Wallace was a genuine hero, but he made mistakes, and he was a scapegoat for the mistakes of others. The story of Lew Wallace and the Civil War is fascinating and complex, highlighting some important truths about battles fought within the Union Army as well as those with the Confederates.

Gail Stephens has a Bachelor’s Degree in International Politics from George Washington University and did graduate work at Johns Hopkins and Harvard Universities. She worked for the Department of Defense for 26 years, retiring in 1994 as a member of the Department’s Senior Executive Service. Upon retirement, she began to study the American Civil War. She volunteers at Monocacy National Battlefield near Frederick, Maryland, lectures regularly on various Civil War topics, including Monocacy, Major General Lew Wallace and the 1864 Maryland campaign, and gives battlefield tours. In 2002, she won the National Park Service’s E.W. Peterkin award for her contributions to public understanding of Civil War history. She has written articles on Lew Wallace and Jubal Early’s 1864 invasion of the North for several Civil War publications. Her book on Wallace’s Civil War career, *Shadow of Shiloh* (2010), recently won the Civil War Forum of New York City’s William Henry Seward Award for best Civil War biography of 2011.

**MEETING DATE: MAY 23, 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 MAY 9 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)**

## *2012 – 2013 Campaign*

**Any decision about re-arranging the meeting schedule has been tabled until the next campaign. Therefore, these dates have been confirmed for 2012-2013.**

- 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

### *A Note From Our President*

Dear Friends,

We are coming to the end of another campaign, and I want to thank everyone for their support of the Civil War Round Table of St. Louis. An organization like ours is possible because of the hard work of the members who strive to keep the Round Table going and history alive.

At our meeting of May 23, we will hold an election for all officer positions and three members of the Board of Directors. Our official slate consists of:

President – Bill Jackson

Vice-President – Gloria Grouzos

Secretary – Murnai Winter

Assistant Secretary – Ed Rataj

Treasurer – Curt Wittbracht

Assistant Treasurer – Larry Lapinski

For three-year terms as Board Members: Curtis Fears, Michael Schroepel, and Mike Scully.

Now, just because we have an "official" slate does not mean that you cannot run for any open position. Nominations from the floor can be made at the May meeting. If someone is nominated (and unlike William T. Sherman), they consent to run, time will be allowed for them to make an appeal to the membership.

I do hope someone will consider running. We are only as strong as the membership and the volunteers who keep things running smoothly.

Sincerely, Mike

### *Grants and Donations*

After careful consideration of the funds requested as compared to the funds available, the Board of Directors voted to donate a total of \$3500 to the following causes/organizations:

Whitehaven - \$500

Fort Davidson - \$500

Civil War Trust (Shiloh Property) - \$500

Missouri History Museum - \$500

Sons of Union Veterans (Sherman Project) - \$500

STL Freedom Gateway - \$500

Fort D (Cape Girardeau) - \$350

Archeology Project (Greg Wolk) - \$150

## *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 August 18, 2012*

### **The Beat Goes On: Instruments From the Hartenberger World Music Collection**

Exhibit at the Sheldon Art Galleries (3648 Washington Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108). Includes Civil War instruments and photos. Free admission; donations accepted. For hours and other information: <http://thesheldon.org/galleries.asp>.

*Now Through November 4, 2012*

### **The Civil War in the West Exhibit, Old Ordnance Room, Jefferson Barracks Park**

Artifacts, equipment, and text panels explaining the war in the West featuring the battles of Shiloh, Vicksburg, Corinth, Nashville, Chickamauga, etc. Uniforms, equipment, and other artifacts. Free admission; \$2 suggested donation. For information: [www.stlouisco.com/parks/jb](http://www.stlouisco.com/parks/jb)

*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)

*Sunday, May 6, 2012, 2:00 pm*

### **A Savage Conflict**

Using his book, *A Savage Conflict: The Decisive Role of Guerillas in the Civil War*, as a basis, University of Arkansas professor Daniel E. Sutherland explains the role and overall impact that guerillas had in determining the nature and outcome of the Civil War. Missouri History Museum, AT&T Foundation Multipurpose Room, Free. For information: [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.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)

*Saturday, May 19-20, 2012*

### **Used Book Sale to benefit the Chatillon-DeMenil House**

May 19, 10 am to 4 pm (\$5 admission to the 9 am preview). May 20, Noon to 4 pm, free admission. Sale held at the Historic Lemp Brewery. More information at [www.demenil.org](http://www.demenil.org).

*Thursday, May 31, 2012, 7:00 pm*

***Dred Scott and the Southern Argument for Slavery***

Dr. Paul Finkelman, the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy at Albany Law School, discusses the Dred Scott case within the context of pro-slavery thoughts in the antebellum South. Missouri History Museum, Lee Auditorium, Free.

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

*Saturday, June 16, 2012, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon*

***The Regional Branches of the National Archives: Kansas City***

Free presentation by librarian Tom Pearson highlighting Civil War resources at the regional branch of the National Archives. Buder Branch, Saint Louis Public Library. Registration recommended, but not required. To register or for more information: [tpearson@slpl.org](mailto:tpearson@slpl.org)

## *Off The Shelf*

***The Great Heart of the Republic – St. Louis and the Cultural Civil War***

by Adam Arenson, 2011

What is St. Louis? It depends on who you ask. St. Louis has always had a diverse cultural history, with early French and Spanish residents, mixing with large immigrant populations from Eastern Europe, along with people who came up the river from the South and travelers from the East. Eventually, this hodgepodge of influences was distilled down into a simple catchphrase, “The Gateway to the West” which stuck. And yet, Professor Arenson’s examination of St. Louis in the period before, during, and after the Civil War illustrates how the divergent cultural and political interests of North, South, and West, and the eternal struggle of progress vs. preservation will eventually lead the region into turmoil, nearly breaking the state as soundly as it broke the union.

By cobbling together the cultural and the historical, introducing us to the figures for which streets and buildings are now named, Arenson paints a fascinating picture of a region and a country teetering on the edge between old and new, and the sacrifices made by many to do what they felt best for the good of the nation, pushing forward to schism. The common grade-school history answer is that the Civil War began with the firing on Fort Sumter. And yet Professor Arenson makes it clear that rather than an instantaneous conflagration, the Civil War was more of a foregone conclusion. There is no moment where, if only the iceberg could have been spotted sooner, the ship could have been saved. Instead, like many disasters, it is an event cascade of things happening in succession, which taken on their own are worrisome and unpleasant, and occurring in line lead to fatality. And as racism, culturalism, regionalism, government distrust, and divisiveness continues to be sown in rhetoric from both left and right, we can only hope that we have learned something from our history, that our continuing cultural civil war will have a better resolution.

Submitted by Erin Harris

***May is Silent Auction Month at the Round Table.***

There will be a variety of items available for your bid,  
all the way from very rare through merely interesting.

Please bring cash or check.

# Off The Wall

"All I know is that I know nothing..." (Socrates)

I opened Mr. Arenson's book a self-confessed novice to Civil War history. Despite my parents' avid interest, and my own brushes with such events in my varied roles as student, tourist, reader, and museum patron, I freely admit that much of my knowledge of that period comes more from literature and Hollywood-ized depictions popularized over a century later; more Ambrose Bierce than Bruce Catton, and more Michael Shaara than Shelby Foote, if you will. As a born-and-raised South Sider, I did consider myself fairly well-versed in my state and city's history. Mr. Arenson laid waste to my delusions in those respects. In Civil War history, I have yet to scratch the surface of this complex, frustrating, emotion-laden period of our nation's continuing growth that refuses to be pigeonholed and easily labeled, but demands reasoned thought and impassioned debate 150 years later. It also appears that I have failed to appreciate the many facets of my home state and town, buying solidly into the "Gateway to the West" motto, while ignoring the Northern and Southern influences within, that when combined with the often divergent goals of Manifest Destiny, most embodied by the desire for a Pacific railroad, engendered acrimony not only with those outside our borders, but within them as well, and threatened to tear the state apart as easily as it divided the union. It was stunning to realize how much I took for granted or outright ignored. For example, how many times have I walked through the St. Louis Art Museum and gazed at Bingham's *Jolly Flatboatmen in Port* without once pondering the historical significance as to why he chose those figures and that placement, allowing his picture to truly say 1000 words?

It would be wonderful to say the reason I never noticed is because 150 years later, we've finally settled many of the underlying issues at the heart of the Civil War, that social interaction of people from varied races and ethnic backgrounds is so commonplace, I saw nothing strange in it. One glance at a newspaper contradicts that immediately. Distrust and suspicion of the motives of a strong centralized government vs. the rights of states to govern themselves too seems an issue of today. Which begs the question, why if all these issues are still central, so many hide from the lessons to be learned from history? Is it because we are embarrassed by the actions of our predecessors, or are we merely uncomfortable to examine such a complex powder keg and our own attitudes 150 years later and realize we're not so far removed from those we smugly judge from the past?

In many ways, St. Louis continues to wage a cultural civil war, as racism, regionalism, and the divergent interests of those who seek power continuously clash, as the area continues to lose status and population while pointing fingers at those "others" responsible, as those who seek to preserve the glory days of the city's prestige and glamour run headlong into those trying to encourage progress for a future age. Perhaps with Mr. Arenson's book to remind us how much influence the hearts and minds of the people can have on events, we can find a better solution for these issues that continue to plague us than 5 years of bloodshed and ruin. Instead of being disheartened by the lack of a "101 Helpful Tips to Avoid A Future Civil War" list in the back of the book, I should be satisfied that by having the courage to illustrate that we know nothing, Mr. Arenson has put us on the path to true knowledge.

Submitted by Erin Harris

According to Ulysses S. Grant, he could only recognize two tunes. *"One was Yankee Doodle, and the other wasn't."*

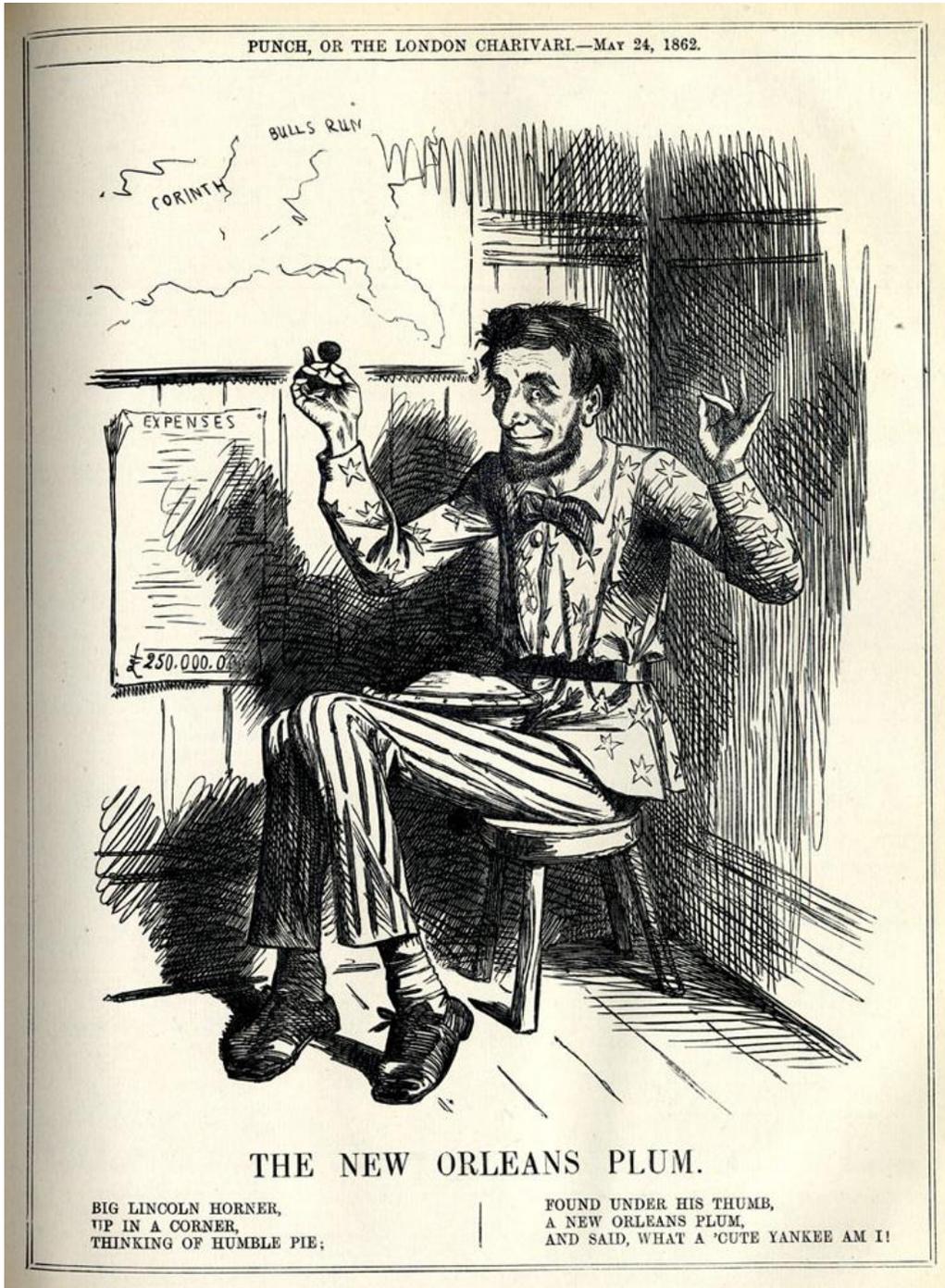
## *150 Years Ago – May through August 1862*

|                 |   |                |  |
|-----------------|---|----------------|--|
| Apr 29 – May 30 | Siege of Corinth, MS                                  | Jun 29         | Battle of Savage's Station, VA                           |
| May 5           | Battle of Williamsburg, VA                            | Jun 30 – Jul 1 | Battle of Tampa, FL                                      |
| May 7           | Battle of Eltham's Landing, VA                        | Jun 30         | Battle of Glendale, VA                                   |
| May 8 – 9       | Battle of McDowell, VA                                | Jun 30         | Battle of White Oak Swamp                                |
| May 15          | Battle of Drewry's Bluff, VA                          | Jul 1          | Battle of Malvern Hill, VA                               |
| May 15 – 17     | Battle of Princeton Court House, (West) VA            | Jul 7          | Battle of Cotton Plant (Battle of Hill's Plantation), AR |
| May 23          | Battle of Front Royal, VA                             | Jul 13         | First Battle of Murfreesboro, TN                         |
| May 25          | Battle of First Winchester, VA                        | Aug 5          | Battle of Baton Rouge, LA                                |
| May 27          | Battle of Hanover Court House, VA                     | Aug 6          | Battle of Kirksville, MO                                 |
| May 31 – Jun 1  | Battle of Seven Pines, VA                             | Aug 9          | First Battle of Donaldsonville, LA                       |
| Jun 5           | Battle of Tranter's Creek, NC                         | Aug 9          | Battle of Cedar Mountain, VA                             |
| Jun 6           | Battle of Memphis, TN                                 | Aug 11         | First Battle of Independence, MO                         |
| Jun 7 – 8       | Battle of Chattanooga, TN                             | Aug 15 - 16    | Battle of Lone Jack, MO                                  |
| Jun 8           | Battle of Cross Keys, VA                              | Aug 21 – 22    | Battle of Fort Ridgely, MN                               |
| Jun 9           | Battle of Port Republic, VA                           | Aug 22 – 25    | First Battle of Rappahannock Station, VA                 |
| Jun 16          | Battle of James Island (Battle of Secessionville), SC | Aug 25 – 27    | Battle of Manassas Station Ops., VA                      |
| Jun 17          | Battle of Saint Charles, AR                           | Aug 28 – 30    | Second Battle of Bull Run, VA                            |
| Jun 21          | Battle of Simmons Bluff, SC                           | Aug 28         | Battle of Thoroughfare Gap, VA                           |
| Jun 25          | Battle of Oak Grove, VA                               | Aug 30         | Battle of Richmond, KY                                   |
| Jun 26          | Battle of Beaver Dam Creek, VA                        |                |  |
| Jun 27          | Battle of Gaines' Mill, VA                            |                |  |
| Jun 27 – 28     | Battle of Garnett's & Golding's Farm, VA              |                |  |

### *Officers for the 2011-2012 Campaign*

|                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President – Mike Scully       | Board Member – Bob Katsev         |
| Vice President – Bill Jackson | Board Member – John Mullen        |
| Secretary – Murnai Winter     | Board Member – Barry Rinderknecht |
| Asst. Secretary – Ed Rataj    | Board Member – Greg Wolk          |
| Treasurer – Curt Wittbracht   | Board Member – Phil Baker         |
| Asst. Treasurer – OPEN        | Board Member – Vince Heier        |
| Board Member – Bob Buxton     | Program Chairman – Mike Scully    |
| Board Member – Larry Lapinski | Bushwhacker Editor – Walt Bittle  |
| Board Member – Gary Scheel    | Assistant Editor – John Harris    |

## Editorial Cartoon of the Month



### “The New Orleans Plum”

*Punch*, May 24, 1862.

*Big Lincoln Horner,  
Up in a corner,  
Thinking of humble pie,  
Found under his thumb,  
A New Orleans plum,  
And said, what a cute  
Yankee am I!*

Here, Lincoln is a self-satisfied little boy proud of his accomplishments. While the British may not have realized it, there had been very significant progress in the war, especially in the western theater. The map shows Corinth, possibly referring to the battle of Shiloh which had been so costly and also Bull Run, a Union defeat. But in the West, in the first four months of 1862, Fort Henry (2/6), Fort Donelson (2/12), Nashville (2/23), Pea Ridge (3/7-8), New Madrid (3/13), Shiloh (4/5-7), Island No. 10 (4/7), and New Orleans (4/29) had all occurred and were significant advances for the “Anaconda” strategy of the Union. Memphis would be taken on June 6, leaving only Vicksburg and Port Hudson standing in the way of total opening of the Mississippi River and separating the Trans-Mississippi from the rest of the Confederacy. New Orleans was also a significant loss for the Confederacy, in that it was the largest city and the banking center of the Confederacy.

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*

## *April 2012 Trivia*

1. According to company legend, what soft drink was developed at Detroit's Higby & Sterns Pharmacy by a drugstore clerk who enlisted in the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry 14 August 1862 as a hospital orderly, was subsequently promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 20 September 1864 and discharged on 1 July 1865? The drink is sold today under its original name, although the business has changed hands several times.

**Vernor's Ginger Ale was invented by James Vernor, who experimented with various flavors including ginger, vanilla, and other natural flavorings. When he was called into service, he put the mixture of ingredients into an oak barrel, and it aged until he returned from wartime service. When he tasted the contents of the barrel, he found it like nothing he had ever tasted and declared it "Deliciously different". Ginger tea, beer, and ale have been touted as medicinally beneficial in curing nausea, digestive disorders including indigestion, flatulence, and diarrhea, and improved heart health due to reduction of triglycerides and LDL (bad cholesterol), preventing heart attacks and strokes, as well as treating the common cold. Vernor's is America's oldest surviving soft drink.**

2. John Brown gave a .44-caliber Sharp's sporting rifle that he had been given by New England abolitionists in 1856 to Charles Blair of Collinsville, CT, who later made what items for Brown's Harper's Ferry venture?

**Blair was a forgemaster who made 1,000 pikes for the raid which Brown planned to use to arm the freed slaves.**

3. What was Merryman's Monthly, and what effect did it have on Civil war soldiers?

**It was a humorous publication written by Thomas Frank "Francis" Beard, a.k.a. Frank Beard, and published by J. C. Hanley & Co. Beard was a cartoonist and illustrator. It cost 10 cents, and soldiers quoted it often.**

4. What was a sling cart, and what was its intended use?

**A cart designed to move large caliber guns – generally used at gun manufacturers and forts. The wheels were 11 feet high and required twelve mules and 150 men with drag ropes to move an 8-inch rifle or similar heavy guns.**

5. What US Government building now stands on the site of the Old Capitol Prison?

**The United States Supreme Court Building**

6. The son of Silas Casey, the celebrated author of the *System of Infantry Tactics*, graduated first in his class from West Point in 1852. During the Civil War, he served as an engineer officer building fortifications in Maine. What famous structure, begun in 1848, was completed by Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Lincoln Casey in 1884?

**The Washington Monument. He also built what is now called the Eisenhower Executive Office Building (originally the State, War, and Navy Department Building) and the Library of Congress which was completed in 1897, the year after his death.**

7. Who raised the first Confederate flag over the Capital in Montgomery, Alabama, on 4 March 1861? What other national event took place on that day?

**Letitia Tyler, grand-daughter of past US President John Tyler raised the flag, incidentally on the same day President Lincoln was inaugurated.**

8. On 1 July 1863, JEB Stuart committed what wartime act that was largely criticized by other senior Confederate officers and delayed his arrival at Gettysburg?

**He burned the Cavalry Barracks at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. General Ewell felt the action was unnecessary, and since many Southern officers trained there, he had significant personal attachment to the post.**

9. When JEB Stuart left Carlisle, Pennsylvania at 0100 hours on 2 July, how long did it take him and his command to reach Gettysburg, forty-five (45) miles away?

**Approximately nine hours, arriving about 1000 hours on 2 July. This is remembered as an Olympian effort, considering the condition of his horses and men. Many horses and men fell asleep on the march, men falling from the saddle, and horses falling over with the rider mounted. They were in such poor condition when they arrived that General Lee directed them to rest.**

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**Trivia questions at the May meeting will concentrate on Civil War and the Arts.  
It's time to refresh your memory about art, poetry, literature, and related subjects.**