



The Bushwhacker

September 2013

The Civil War Round Table of Saint Louis

“Antietam: A Calamity of Errors” by Edward (Ed) Bonkemper III



Ed Bonekemper holds a B.A., cum laude, in American history from Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania and an M.A. in American history from Old Dominion University in Virginia. He also earned a J.D. from Yale Law School. Ed was a Federal Government attorney for 34 years, including 11 years on active duty with the U.S. Coast Guard, from which he retired as a commander. He taught maritime and constitutional law at the Coast Guard Academy and military history at Muhlenberg. Ed has been the Book Review Editor of *Civil War News* since early 2010. For over 15 years, he has been a Civil War speaker at hundreds of Round Tables and numerous other forums, including eight appearances at the Smithsonian Institution.

His five Civil war books are: *“Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War”*, *“Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian”*, *“McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse”*, *“A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant’s Overlooked Military Genius”*, and *“How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War”*. His many published articles include: “The Butcher’s Bill: Ulysses S. Grant is often referred to as a ‘butcher,’ but does Robert E. Lee actually deserve that title?”, *Civil War Times*, April 2011, pp. 36-43; “General Disobedience: ‘Little Mac’ Let John Pope Twist in the Wind,” *Civil War Times*, December 2010, pp. 32-39, and “Is Grant or Lee Greatest General?”, *The Washington Times*, March 29, 2008, p. D3.

“Antietam: A Calamity of Errors” will explore the Maryland (or Antietam) Campaign and focus on the deadly Battle of Antietam fought by the armies of Robert E. Lee and George B. McClellan. That battle was the deadliest in American military history. Ed will discuss the strategic and tactical errors that placed Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia in a position in which it should have been destroyed and the offsetting strategic and tactical errors of McClellan that saved Lee’s army from destruction. He will conclude with an explanation of the battle’s ramifications and significance that made it perhaps the most important battle of the Civil War.

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 25, 2013

ROYALE ORLEANS BANQUET CENTER, 2801 South Telegraph Road, 63125

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

Make reservations by September 18. Please reserve via our Web Site at <http://civilwarstlouis.org/main/> or call Lee Steuby at 314-439-5149

Bushwhacker deadline: Three weeks prior to each meeting. Please submit items of interest to Walt Bittle waltb50@charter.net or John Harris ce342@swbell.net

2013 – 2014 Campaign

- September 25, 2013 – “Antietam: A Calamity of Errors” by Edward (Ed) Bonkemper III, author and book review editor
- October 23, 2013 – “The U.S. Marines at the Battle of Bull Run: Emending the Record “ by David M. Sullivan, military historian
- December 4, 2013 – “Gone with the Glory: The Civil War in Cinema” by Brian Steel Wills, Ph.D., professor, historian and director of Kennesaw State University’s Center for the Study of the Civil War Era
- January 22, 2014 – “The Big Divide: A Travel Guide to Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region” by Diane Eickhoff and Aaron Barnhart
- February 26, 2014 – “Not the Best General, But Certainly the Best Man: A Curious Event in Custer’s Civil War Career (Among Others)” by Round Table Member Reverend Vincent A. Heier
- March 26, 2014 – “Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral, The Life of Samuel Francis Du Pont” by Colonel Kevin J Weddle (US Army Retired), Professor of Military Theory and Strategy, US Army War College
- April 23, 2014 – “Abraham Lincoln and the Press” by Harold Holzer, author, lecturer, and Lincoln scholar
- May 28, 2014 – "Cinders & Silence: Order No. 11 and Western Missouri's Burnt District" by Tom Rafiner, author and storyteller

A Note From Our President

Friends,

Thanks to you all for a successful campaign. In spite of several challenges, our volunteers rose to meet and exceed them. Our meetings do not happen without the work of our many volunteers and the participation of our loyal members. Thank you again.

Now we look forward to a tour of Wilson's Creek in August and an exciting campaign this fall. One of the highest responses, cited in our surveys, on why you attend is our camaraderie and the Civil War knowledge of our members. Won't you invite others to share these interesting moments of Civil War history with you?

It is an honor to continue serving you as your president.

Bill

Officers for the 2013-2014 Campaign

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Events of Interest

Now Through November 15, 2013

The World of James Yeatman

The Saint Louis Mercantile Library has an exhibit focusing on Yeatman's work with the Freedmen's Bureau and the Western Sanitary Exhibition. For information:

<http://www.umsl.edu/mercantile/Events/yeatman%20Exhibition.html>

Now Through June 1, 2014

Civil War Missouri: A House Dividing

Artifacts and documents. Daily 8:00 am to 5:00 pm except Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and Easter. Missouri State Capitol Museum, 201 W. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO.

September 14 – September 15, 2013

150th Anniversary of the Battle of Marshall

Two battle recreations on part of the actual battlefield of Colonel Jo Shelby's running battle. Also planned are a confrontation at Saline County Courthouse and two-mile Parade of Flags to the battlefield, located at Marshall Indian Foothills Park. Also planned are a Ladies' Tea, an evening Country Dance at North Point Pavilion, and Sunday church service. All events are free and open to the general public. For information: www.battleofmarshall.org

November 15, 2013, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Squeezing Your Sources: Getting All the Info You Can From Military Service and Pension Records

Join Saint Louis Public Library Subject Specialist Tom Pearson as he describes ways to extract all the information you possibly can from compiled military service records and pension records. Free. Pre-registration recommended, but not required. Saint Louis City Central Library, 2nd Floor Training Room. To register or for more information, e-mail tpearson@slpl.org

December 14, 2013, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Killed by the Cure: Civil War Medicine

Join Saint Louis Public Library Subject Specialist Tom Pearson as he discusses book, manuscript, microfilm, and Internet sources of information on typical illnesses and injuries suffered by Civil War soldiers, and the methods Civil War doctors and nurses employed to try and heal them. Free. Pre-registration recommended, but not required. Saint Louis City Central Library, 2nd Floor Training Room. To register or for more information, e-mail tpearson@slpl.org

September 27 – September 28, 2014

Reenactment of the Battle of Pilot Knob

The Battle of Pilot Knob marked the beginning of Sterling Price's 1864 invasion of Missouri. The reenactment will be held at Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob and will be open to the public each day at 8:00 am. For more information, contact the historic site at 573-546-3454.

150 Years Ago – July to September 1863

- Jul 1 The Missouri State Convention passes a gradual emancipation plan that would begin to take effect in 1870.
- Jul 1 The three-day Battle of Gettysburg begins entirely by accident as CSA enters from north and west; USA enters from south and east. More men will fight and die than in any battle of the war – the total loss is 51,000+. The contract to re-bury the dead will go to the lowest bidder - \$1.59 per body.
- Jul 2 Lee (74,000) settles in on Seminary Ridge, tries to dislodge Meade (82,000) from Cemetery Ridge. The cemetery is posted: “*All persons found using firearms in these grounds will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law.*”
- Jul 3 Longstreet cautions Lee against attack, but Lee’s aura of invincibility leads to his costliest error. After a two-hour cannonade by 138 CSA guns, Pickett loses 60% of his 12,000 troops in a futile charge against the center of the Union line – the alleged “Highwater Mark of the Confederacy”.
- Jul 4 Vicksburg, Mississippi, surrenders to Grant. The Fourth of July holiday will not be celebrated again in Vicksburg for eighty-two years.
- Jul 6 Rear Admiral Samuel Du Pont, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, is relieved of duty over the lack of ability of the Navy to make headway against the fortifications of Charleston, South Carolina.
- Jul 9 After six weeks of siege, Port Hudson, Louisiana, surrenders. US Army gains control of the Mississippi River, splits CSA north to south, isolates CSA troops west of the river. President Lincoln is relieved: “. . . the Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea.”
- Jul 11 USA begins conscription, allows the draftee to pay \$300 or provide a substitute. Grover Cleveland, Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and 116,118 others take the easy way out. Although he is too old to be drafted, Abraham Lincoln pays \$500 to hire a man to serve for him. (More than 161,000 become “draft dodgers”, many fleeing to Canada. Less than 2.5% of the US Army are draftees, and little more than 5% are hired substitutes.)
- Jul 13 Anti-draft and anti-Black riots in New York City kill 119, burn various homes and businesses, including Greeley’s New York Tribune. More than 20,000 troops are dispatched from Gettysburg, surround the city until order is restored.
- Jul 17 USA Blacks and Indians defeat CSA Whites and Indians at Honey Springs (Elk Creek) in the largest action in the Oklahoma (Indian) Territory.
- Jul 18 The all-Black 54th Massachusetts proves its valor, yet fails in a bloody attempt to take Fort Wagner on Morris Island in South Carolina.
- Jul 26 Morgan’s Raiders (CSA) are defeated near Portland and surrender near West Point, just south of Lisbon – Ohio, that is. Morgan is imprisoned at the Ohio State Penitentiary, from which he later escapes on November 27.
- Aug 4 After his humiliating failure at Gettysburg, Lee attempts to resign. Davis refuses to accept the resignation, expresses his utmost faith in Lee. Meade will also attempt to resign, is also refused.

- Aug 13 A building being used as a jail in Kansas City collapses, killing or maiming a number of female relatives of Quantrill's guerrillas
- Aug 18 General Thomas Ewing issues orders freeing slaves of Missourians actively involved with the Confederate Army.
- Aug 20 Kit Carson and the New Mexico Cavalry begin moving Navajos and Apaches on the "long walk" from Arizona to Bosque Redondo near Fort Sumner, New Mexico.
- Aug 21 Quantrill's band of lawless bushwhackers – nearly 500 men including Cole Younger, Frank James, and "Bloody Bill" Anderson – plunder Lawrence, Kansas, murder at least 150 innocent civilians.
- Aug 25 In response to Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas, General Ewing orders civilians out of their homes in three Missouri counties (Jackson, Cass and Bates) and parts of a fourth (Vernon). Numerous women and children become refugees. Homes are burned, leaving only chimneys standing – giving rise to the name "Burnt District" that refers to this area for years to come.
- Sep 4 A horse falls on (allegedly drunk) Grant near New Orleans. Sherman takes temporary command in the western theater.
- Sep 5 British forces stop the shipment of two ironclads from Liverpool under orders from Lord Russell.
- Sep 8 Bartender Dick Dowling, forty-three CSA troops, and six small cannon defeat a US flotilla at Sabine Pass, Texas. They capture two gunboats, thirteen cannon, and more than 400 sailors. CSA almost never gives out medals, but Davis makes an exception, decorates all forty-four.
- Sep 20 Longstreet (CSA) moves 15,000 troops over 900 miles by sixteen different rail lines from Virginia through the Carolinas and up through Georgia to help Bragg defeat Rosecrans at Chickamauga, Georgia – the bloodiest battle in the western theater. Rosecrans retreats into, and is trapped within, Chattanooga. (Chickamauga is a Cherokee word for "river of death".) General Thomas (nicknamed the Rock of Chickamauga for his tenacious stand in the face of defeat) replaces General Rosecrans, who later serves as a Congressman from California and as Minister to Mexico.

Inside The Walls

Missouri Civil War Museum

After much effort the Missouri Civil War Museum located in the old PX at Jefferson Barracks is finally open. The results of the first class restoration are quite impressive and the addition of an elevator accessible from the level of the rear parking lot makes the space accessible to all. The museum will continue to be a work in progress for some time. Currently less than one-fourth of the accumulated artifacts are on display but those are all well displayed in museum quality cases on two levels. The 45 minute "Wide Awake" video running continuously on a screen in the lower level, unfortunately, is just a basic travel brochure which I found disappointing. Executive Director Mark Trout assured me it was only temporary and shared information about their expansion plans as time and funds allow. Additional galleries are planned in the museum building and the adjacent (still to be restored) building will eventually become the Missouri Civil War Studies Center with a library and conference area. Needless to say much support is still needed. Admission is not expensive and is free to members. For more information visit <http://mcwm.org>.

Submitted by John Harris

Off The Shelf

Complicity: How the North Promoted, Prolonged, and Profited from Slavery

by Farrow, Lang, and Frank (2005)

I just stumbled upon this book, and it was a fortuitous discovery. This 220-page book covered a lot of ground – before, during, and after the Civil War. This is one of the few paragraphs that describes the war itself: “General Robert E. Lee, one of the men who urged John Brown to surrender during the siege in Harpers Ferry, put on a clean Confederate uniform and surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. The civil war to end slavery in America was over.”

Obviously, this book is not about that war. It’s about the myriad and little-known contributions of the country’s “Yankees” that helped finance the institution of slavery that precipitated that war. The authors review both the words and the actions of entrepreneurs, some of whom were abolitionists, in New York and the New England states, from their building of slave ships and chartering of slave voyages to their involvement in amassing wealth by producing cloth from slave-grown cotton.

I was at least aware of most of the ways Northerners were involved in slave-related activities and industries, but I was unaware of the ivory trade centered in Connecticut. Ivory brokers of many nationalities killed thousands (if not millions) of elephants, and using captured slaves, transported the tusks to the east coast of Africa. There, the tusks were delivered mostly to Connecticut, where they were made into piano keys, billiard balls, combs, and assorted other wares. The few surviving slaves were sold, as well. The people who owned the ivory factories were well-known abolitionists, but their concern for the fate of captive people came to a screeching halt when their own profit was involved. (And the final four tons of elephant tusks were delivered in the early 1950’s, so this is not ancient history.) I think this book is well worth adding to your reading list. It’s an eye-opener.

Submitted by Walt Bittle

Off The Wall

Baseball and the Civil War



The story that Abner Doubleday invented baseball in 1839 was once widely promoted and widely believed. There was, and still is, no evidence for this claim, except for the testimony of one man decades after the fact, and there is *more persuasive* counter-evidence. Doubleday left many letters and papers, but they contain no description of baseball or even a suggestion that he considered himself a prominent person in the history of the game. His *New York Times* obituary makes no mention of baseball at all, nor does an encyclopedia article published in 1911. Contrary to popular belief, Doubleday has never been inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, although a large oil portrait of him was on display at the Hall of Fame building for many years.

The legend of Doubleday’s invention of baseball was itself baseball’s invention, in a sense that of Al Spalding, a former star pitcher, then club executive, who had become the leading American sporting goods entrepreneur and sports publisher. Debate on baseball’s origins had raged for decades, heating up in the first years of the 20th century. To end argument, speculation, and innuendo, Spalding organized a panel in 1905 whose final report stated that “the first scheme for playing baseball, according to the best evidence obtainable to date, was devised by Abner Doubleday at Cooperstown, New York, in 1839.”

Submitted by Walt Bittle

Editorial Cartoon of the Month



PRESENTATION TO JEFF DAVIS

Dinah: "Hi! Massa! De Swamp Angel send his compelmunts wid dis fine punkinh, smokin' hot, and hope to visit you hisself in Richmond, by 'm by!"

(Harper's, September 26, 1863)

The "Swamp Angel" was a huge Parrott rifle capable of firing 150-pound shells into Charleston, SC from a marsh battery on Morris Island. Ordered by General Quincy A. Gilmore, it weighed 16,500 lbs. and was capable of firing its shell 7000 yards into the city. Unfortunately (or fortunately for Confederates), the cannon burst after firing 36 rounds. Two good web sites are -

http://www.lousweb.com/SA/swamp_angel.htm and

<http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/batterywagner/battery-wagner-history-articles/the-swamp-angel.html>

Member Bob Schultz has created *Political Cartoons of the American Civil War*, a 52-page book of contemporary cartoons from many sources. Available to members for \$10 each (see Bob Schultz at the next meeting) or for \$14.95 postage paid. Contact waltb50@charter.net for further details.

Civil War Round Table of St. Louis

May 2013 Trivia

1. What Federal Naval Officer, who served with distinction at New Orleans, Port Hudson, and the Second Battle of Fort Fisher, ultimately rose to the rank of Admiral commanding the Asiatic Fleet during the Spanish American War? **George Dewey**

2. How many musicians were authorized in a standard Civil War Federal regimental band?

Twenty-four (24) instruments included D-flat Piccolo; E-flat Cornet; E-flat Soprano Saxhorn (OTS); B-flat Cornet; E-flat Cornet (OTS); Trumpet; B-flat Contralto Saxhorn (OTS); B-flat Tenorhorn (OTS); E-flat Tenorhorn; B-flat Bass (Baritone) (OTS); B-flat Bass Tuba; Rope tension snare drums and bass drums. Snare drums were referred to as side drums. (Note: OTS means over the shoulder.)

3. Who commanded the *CSS Virginia* in the first day of the Battle of Hampton Roads, and who took command when that officer was wounded?

Admiral Franklin Buchanan was replaced by Lt. Catesby ap Roger Jones. Jones' last assignment in the US Navy was aboard the *USS Merrimack*.

4. Who commanded the *USS Monitor* in the Battle of Hampton Roads (second day) with the *CSS Virginia* on 9 March 1862, and who succeeded him in command when he was blinded during the battle?

Lt. John L Worden and after he was blinded he was replaced by Lt. Samuel Dana Green.

5. What was the largest frontal assault conducted in the Civil War? Hood at Franklin TN; Geo. Pickett at Gettysburg PA; Lee at Gaines' Mill VA; Bragg at Chickamauga GA; Hancock at Spotsylvania VA; or Horatio Wright at the Petersburg VA breakthrough?

Robert E. Lee launched his entire Army at Gaines' Mill, some 30,000 to 50,000 men. All the attacks mentioned, except Pickett's, were successful in that the attacker did not give back ground taken and succeeded in driving the enemy.

6. What senior Union general was married to the daughter of a vice-presidential candidate, served as an artilleryman in the Seminole War, was brevetted as a staff officer on Winfield Scott's staff in Mexico, was Superintendent of Geodetic Survey of the Great Lakes, engineered and constructed nine lighthouses, and designed a hydraulic lamp that was adopted by the Lighthouse Board for general use?

George G. Meade married Margaretta Sergeant, daughter of Henry Clay's 1852 running mate. He designed and built the Absecon Light, Barnegat Light, Cape May Light, Jupiter Inlet Light, and Sombrero Key Light. He designed a five-wick, First Order hydraulic lamp used in Fresnel lenses that was adopted by the US Lighthouse Board. An accomplished professional engineer, he always said "I took orders all my life from a sergeant".

7. What was the Lieber Code, and what is its significance today?

Gen. Henry Halleck, in attempting to come to a clear logical policy in dealing with the guerrilla problem in Missouri, asked Professor Francis Lieber, a Prussian veteran of the Napoleonic Wars, and an authority on military thought at the time, for his opinion on the issue. His response to Halleck provided justification for execution of guerrillas as robbers and pirates. It was also the basis for Halleck's General Order No. 100, issued 24 April 1863, which provided the legal framework for the war. The concept of military necessity allowing confiscation or destruction of private property when required to defeat the enemy found its basis in Lieber's analysis. That is one of the foundations of the concept of total war otherwise known as *Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States in the Field* and signed by President Abraham Lincoln. This was the justification for Grant in Mississippi, Sheridan in the Shenandoah, Sherman in Georgia, and other such campaigns that took the war to the people.

8. What railroad was the main supply route for both the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia at Fredericksburg?

The Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad supplied the Federals from Aquia Creek south to the Falmouth encampment area and Robert E. Lee's army north from Richmond to his defensive line west of the Rappahannock River. The rail line was broken by the destroyed bridge at Fredericksburg.

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF ST. LOUIS

2013 – 2014 Enlistment Campaign

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

How did you hear about us? _____