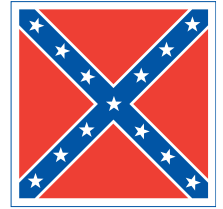


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXXI, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2010



## 696th REGULAR MEETING

Samuel C. Hyde

on

“A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country”

★★★★★

Friday, December 10

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$45 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée: Prime Rib, Baked Salmon, Vegetarian Plate or Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Dec. 6 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing [chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net](mailto:chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net), with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

*Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.*

Samuel C. Hyde

on

“A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

General Halbert E. Paine commanded the Fourth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment during Civil War operations that included early maneuvering on the Maryland Peninsula, the occupation of New Orleans and capture of Baton Rouge, the Bayou Teche Campaign, and the siege of Port Hudson. His reminiscences not only reveal much about the Union purpose in the War and the attitudes of Confederates, but are also revealing of the subtle advantages enjoyed by Federal forces that contributed to the final outcome. Paine’s observations highlight the suppression of guerrilla operations, the treatment of southern civilians and property, and the attitudes of Union soldiers toward slavery and conquered peoples all from the perspective of a duty bound citizen soldier from the West.

A Professor of history at Southeastern Louisiana University, Samuel C. Hyde is the Director of the Center for Southeast Louisiana Studies and holds the Leon Ford Endowed Chair in Regional History. Dr. Hyde is the author of Pistols and Politics: The Dilemma of Democ-



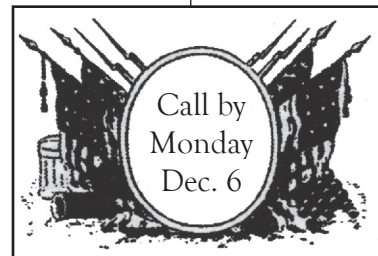
Samuel C. Hyde

racy in Louisiana’s Florida Parishes (winner of a 1998 American Association for State and Local History Award) and author/editor of Plain Folk of the South Revisited. His forthcoming Class and Conflict in the Piney Woods South continues his study of Southern Plain Folk.

Dr. Hyde is also the author/editor of Sunbelt Revolution: The Historical Progression of the Civil Struggle in the Gulf South, 1866-2000;

A Fierce and Fractious Frontier: The Curious Development of Louisiana’s Florida Parishes, 1699-2000; A Wisconsin Yankee in Confeder-

ate Bayou Country: The Civil War Reminiscences of a Union General, among other publications. He serves as executive director of the Gulf South Historical Association and has work has been featured in numerous regional and national media outlets such as The Discovery Channel, The History Channel, ABC’s World News Tonight, National Public Radio, and The New York Times.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

### Local Effort Begins To Enlarge Missionary Ridge Reservations

by Gregory L. Wade

Chattanooga, TN- One hundred and forty-seven years after the Battle of Missionary Ridge to free Chattanooga from an infamous Confederate siege, citizens, and historians are working to enhance and expand the interpretative sites of this often-overlooked battlefield.

Today, the ridge which runs from Georgia north along the eastern side of downtown Chattanooga is covered with 100-year-old homes known more for their spectacular views of the city and its surrounding areas than the November 25th, 1863, battle up its steep slopes.

Neighborhood groups and government officials are looking into adding acreage to the four "reservations" along the ridge crest and seeking Congressional approval for changing park boundaries. They hope such legislation will be filed in January.

Made up of a few acres each along what today is Crest Road, these reservations are essentially small mini-parks managed as part of Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Battlefield. Park Service personnel patrol and maintain the reservations.

While there are numerous markers, even cannon, in some front yards, the small parks are basically islands of history in the midst of residential development. Going north on Crest Road, they are known as the Bragg, Ohio, De Long and Sherman Reservations. "There is virtually unanimous support among the various homeowners groups and the Chattanooga City Council to pursue additional land," says Peter Murphy of the Missionary Ridge Neighborhood Association (MRNA). Murphy also is a member of the Chattanooga City Council.

After the Confederate Army of Tennessee defeated the U.S. Army of the Cumberland only a few miles south of Chattanooga at Chickamauga, Ga, in September 1863, U.S. General Williams Rosecrans' defeated command retreated across the Georgia state line toward Chattanooga, which they reached September 20th.

When the Confederates surrounded Chattanooga, which they had abandoned, they occupied the heights around the city, including Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain. The siege of over two months created misery for the Union troops who were fed only

by a meager supply source known as the "Cracker Line".

Soon the Federals sent reinforcements and a new commander, General Ulysses S. Grant. In late November, Union troops attacked and achieved a hard-fought breakout across Missionary Ridge resulting in the series of battles all the way to Atlanta in the months ahead.

Today many of those critical ridge battlegrounds are hard to see from the valley below as they are hidden by trees.

To be able to "see the monuments rising up on the ridge will change people's consciousness as to what happened here," says Murphy. Now it is mostly left up to one's imagination to visualize what took place on these slopes, he adds.

With additional land much of the view from the valley below could be restored making for a better understanding of the story of Chattanooga during the War.

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been working with MRNA and other neighborhood groups, local and state officials to determine what interest landowners would have in selling their properties to "enhance and expand the reservations."

TPL is a national organization dedicated to conserving "land for human enjoyment and well being, from inner city to wilderness," according to its Web site. TPL'S Rick Wood says any additions would have to be approved by Congress, even if the ground were donated.

Wood and Murphy are emphatic that any land purchases would be from willing landowners and there "would be no condemnation."

Wood says "strong local support is the first step in this process, which we now have." Tennessee U. S. Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander and Chattanooga area Congressman Zach Wamp learned that local residents and neighbors support the effort when they were briefed by TPL. "Local support was critical for Congressional support," Wood says.

The neighborhood groups, which also include Battery Heights Neighborhood Association and the Orchard Knob Neighborhood Association, have issued letters of support for the continued pursuit the plan.

Noting it is not often a project receives such backing, Murphy says he hopes the Federal legislation will be filed as early as January to begin the

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1039 Hinswood

Darien, Illinois 60561

Phone: 630-460-1865

www.chicagocwr.org

The only requirement for membership in The Civil War Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinswood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact bsa1861@att.net.

process of potential boundary "change actions."

"These new additions would come with a lot of study from National Park Service historians," says Wood, "and would give those with homes in the area an idea of how the new lines known as "minor boundary adjustments" would play out."

He says it is much too early to determine any costs as appraisals and desired properties have to be mapped out. When Congress does approve the boundary changes and purchase agreements are ironed out, funds will come through the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Getting the legislation passed will begin the process of narrowing down what parcels and what boundaries will change and will be a time-consuming process, says Wood.

"These things take time, sometimes years, but we are excited about the fighting on Missionary Ridge will be interpreted in the future."

The enthusiasm of the various associations and the City Council will make the process with the National Park Service and Congress much easier. Murphy says.

Optimistic that Congress will move forward with funding studies, Murphy notes, "This is what people with vision who are willing to work for something can do."

To inquire about assisting or making donations to this effort, contact Murphy at Murphy\_p@mail.chattanooga.gov.

From the November *Civil War News*

## November Meeting

BY JACKIE WILSON

The 695th meeting of The Chicago Civil War Round Table was a very special meeting. We awarded the annual Nevins-Freeman Award to our very own **Robert Girardi**, past president of our Round Table and Chicago Homicide detective. In his case he serves twice—the city he lives in and the Civil War historical community through his support of the Round Table movement and his writings.

Rob discussed the massive deployment of large armies and the logistical and intelligence networks necessary to support them and how they were put into effect. The nature of combat and command in the Civil War necessitated the reorganization of the armies. In Europe, the Napoleonic Wars 50 years prior had seen the major European armies introduce army corps composed of two or more infantry divisions. These army corps were designed to be small enough to travel on one road, but large enough to fight a day's battle on their own. The corps contained cavalry and artillery so that the corps could carry out a variety of tasks. In the Civil War, Brigades and Divisions, previously the largest organizational bodies in the American army, were replaced by the

introduction of army corps for the first time.

But how to deal with the problem of commanders for these corps? "The solution to the problem was a problem in itself. No officers of the United States Army had ever commanded anything of the size and complexity of an army corps. While it is true that the army gained much practical experience in the Mexican War, that conflict was as nothing in its scope and scale and in the responsibilities it taught to senior commanders, compared to the latter conflict." He stated that "The largest army in the Mexican War would have been but a weak corps in the Civil War that followed." The prewar U.S. army had only 5 generals, only one of whom had ever commanded as many as 10,000 men, all but one so old they'd reached the modern age of retirement.

Besides commanders, one of the biggest problems was identifying just exactly who was who in the field. Eventually badges were created to identify the individual corps, with color coding for the divisions within each corps. Rob had an excellent display of each Corps badge.

Rob went on to discuss both

the Union and Confederate Corps commanders abilities, or lack thereof, to actually lead a corps. While most corps commanders served in the prewar army, they served at a junior rank (major, captain) and thus had never led even a brigade. While some made the grade at lower levels of command, not many succeeded at the top level.

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from **Hal Ardell**, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or [hal229@ameritech.net](mailto:hal229@ameritech.net). To view Hal's slide presentation of the meeting, see <http://classic.kodakgallery.com/civilwar/main>



### "PETERSBURG- APPOMATTOX" TOUR

Our next battlefield tour will be APRIL 27- MAY 1, 2011. This Tour is limited to two buses. As always, **Ed Bearss** is our Chief Guide and **Will Greene** is Bus #2 Guide. We will be staying at **The Hilton Garden Inn Richmond South/Southpark**; 800 Southpark Blvd. Colonial Heights, VA. For more details, see the attached tour registration form and tour itinerary.

## GRAPESHOT



The **Union League Club** Civil War discussion group is planning a 2011 Lincoln Symposium. The tentative date is March 4, 2011, and speakers include Illinois State Historian Tom Schwartz, Prof. Orville Burton, Prof. Michael Burlingame, and Doug Wilson. More details when they become available.

**Dave Corbett** and his “Battlefield Balladeers” will perform at the South Suburban CWRT Christmas party this Dec. 16th. Visit [www.youtube.com/battlefieldballadeers](http://www.youtube.com/battlefieldballadeers) for details.

On January 7th **Leslie Goddard** will present her acclaimed first-person portrayal of Clara Barton at the Northern Illinois CWRT.

Our friend, author Gail Stephens, spoke on Ben-Hur author Lew Wallace Nov. 30th at Wabash College in Indiana. The talk was based on Gail’s new book, Shadow of Shiloh: Major General Lew Wallace in the Civil War. For more information on Wallace, contact the Lew Wallace Museum in Crawfordsville, IN.

On December 16th **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “Who the Heck is Abner Doubleday?: Baseball and the Civil War” at the Champaign-Urbana CWRT.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at [bsa1861@att.net](mailto:bsa1861@att.net) or (630) 297-8046.

### SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at [hal229@ameritech.net](mailto:hal229@ameritech.net) or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

### Upcoming Civil War Events

Dec. 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT:  
Sheila Simmons on “Stonewall Jackson in the Valley”

Dec. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT:  
Gary Addleman on “The Myth of Little Round Top”

Dec. 4th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Visit [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org) for more details.

Dec. 8th, Lake County CWRT:  
Annual Holiday Dinner

Dec. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT:  
Sam Hyde on “A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country”

Dec. 12th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Jessica Michna presents “Mrs. Abraham Lincoln”

Dec. 14th: McHenry County CWRT:  
Annual Christmas Party

Dec. 16th, South Suburban CWRT:  
Annual Christmas Party

Dec. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT:  
Show and Tell

Dec. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT in Alsip: Tom Fligel on “Appomattox: Place of Surrender & National Resurrection”

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Dec. 10: Samuel C. Hyde, “A Wisconsin Yankee in the Confederate Bayou Country”

Jan. 14, 2011: Lawrence L. Hewitt, “Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn’t”

Feb. 11: Dan Sutherland on “Guerilla War”

March 11: Susan Boardman, “Gettysburg Cyclorama”

April 8: Richard McMurry, TBA

May 13: Tom Schott, “Alexander Stephens”

June 10: Peter Carmichael, TBA

### Reminder

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be Dec. 11th at noon, with Anne Marshall talking about her new book, Creating a Confederate Kentucky, and David Hirsch talking about Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason. For more information on these and upcoming events, visit [www.virtualbooksigning.net](http://www.virtualbooksigning.net) or [www.alincolnbookshop.com](http://www.alincolnbookshop.com).