

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXV, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1975

## 25TH ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR: RICHMOND-PETERSBURG



Federal coehorn mortars at Cold Harbor.

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The Civil War Round Table has chosen the Richmond-Petersburg area for the site of our twenty-fifth annual battlefield tour. This will be our fourth visit to this area which is so full of American history. We cannot return here without reflecting on our friendship with Douglas Southall Freeman, James Ambler Johnston and so many other friends with the same common interest, the study of "our war".

As usual we will travel in air conditioned, loud speaker and toilet-equipped buses. Dress will be casual by day as temperatures are expected to run 10 to 15 degrees more than Chicago, but a sweater and raincoat are good standbys. After our arrival in Richmond Wednesday evening, activities will start with the traditional Command Post, dinner and a briefing on the next day's activities by Mr. William Mallory of the Richmond, C.W.R.T. Thursday, after breakfast on your own, Bill will guide us through the northern portion of the 1864 fields, including Yellow Tavern, Spotsylvania, Guiney Station, the North Anna Area, Hanover Junction and then to Ashland for lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the area of Shady Grove Church, Bethesda Church and Walnut Grove Church (lots of religion on this tour) before reaching the awesome Cold Harbor field. Command Post will be held at the famous White House of the Confederacy with the Richmond C.W.R.T. our hosts. In the evening, our friend Joe Cullen will give us an unprejudiced account of General McClellan's virtues during the Seven Days. It will be a joint meeting with the Richmond Club.

On Friday while those who want to will head for Williamsburg for the day, the main group will stop first at Chimborazo for a briefing then on to Chickahominy Bluffs, Beaver Dam Creek, Ellerson's Mill and all the other familiar names of that series of battles. We will wind up at Harrison's

### COST OF TOUR

\$290, Two to a room (\*); \$310, Single

(\* ) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

**INCLUDES:** Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, hotel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners, (breakfasts are "on your own") group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

**FOR VARIATIONS:** Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone, Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone (area 312) WHitehall 4-3085.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through registrar so that caterer can be notified of number to prepare for and payment can be made.

Landing with a change of pace Command Post on the James River. The special Williamsburg bus will rejoin the tour here. That evening Honorary Member Edwin Bearss will talk about Petersburg. Tour veterans will be pleased to know that Ed will be with us for the next day, sharing his vast historical knowledge with us as usual.

Saturday we will visit all the principal points at Petersburg, with lunch in the field and a stop at Drewry's Bluff on our return if time permits. Fun night will be highlighted by a Richmond briefing by Richmond C.W.R.T. member Hobson Goddin and a question and answer session with Mr. Harold Howard in Confederate uniform. Mr. Howard operates as of 1865 so 1975 hindsight questions won't do!

Tour members will be able to rest up a bit Sunday taking time out from battle to attend church or read the Sunday Richmond Times-Dispatch before a visit to Monument Avenue, the A.P. Hill monument, the restored Kanawha Canal, St. Paul's, Capitol Grounds, Virginia Historical Society, Lee House, Tredegar site and Hollywood Cemetary. Dinner will be served aloft on our return flight to Chicago, amid speculation about next year's Battlefield Tour site!

### 1862 PENINSULA CAMPAIGN AND THE SEVEN DAYS

By Terry Carr

During mid March, 1862 the Army of the Potomac, 75,000 strong, lead by General George B. McClellan moved down Chesapeake Bay to Hampton Roads and Fort Monroe. McClellan's plan called for a swift movement up the Peninsula forcing the Confederate army, commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston, back toward Richmond. Once the Federals

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
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## 1975 TOUR COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen — Brooks Davis, Terry Carr, Bob Walter  
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Book List — E.B. Long



reached the defenses around Richmond they could lay siege to the city, thereby forcing its eventual surrender. Fortunately for the South, McClellan was under the impression that his troops were greatly outnumbered by General Johnston's army. As a result the Federals moved cautiously, spending an entire month in preparing for the capture of Yorktown, which they finally accomplished on May 4th.

Much of McClellan's actions were indirectly caused by the movements of Stonewall Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley. Lincoln feared that Jackson was planning to capture Washington, so he prevented the troops commanded by General McDowell from joining McClellan in his Peninsula Campaign. Due to the absence of these troops, McClellan ceased to be aggressive, thus giving the Confederates time to reinforce their army.

After the fall of Yorktown the Union army moved slowly up the Peninsula, utilizing the White House on the Pamunkey River as its base of supplies. The Pamunkey became the Union right flank and the Chickahominy the left flank. General Johnston retreated toward Richmond until he finally decided to contest McClellan's advance on May 31st at Seven Pines. The battle was first fought but resulted in a draw. More important than the outcome was the wounding of General Johnston, which caused General Robert E. Lee to be given command of the Confederate Army. This event proved to be

the turning point for the South. Lee immediately began making plans to relieve Richmond from possible siege by McClellan. The Confederates had to assume the offensive to gain this objective, and this is exactly what Lee proposed to do.

On June 12th, General Lee sent J.E.B. Stuart with twelve hundred cavalymen to determine the Union positions. Stuart's famous ride around McClellan's army gave Lee the information he needed. The Federal right, Fitz-John Porter's 4th Corps, was positioned behind Beaver Dam Creek, north of the Chickahominy River, and McClellan's other three Corps were on the south side of the Chickahominy. The Union right was therefore isolated and gave Lee his opportunity to strike. McClellan at this point had approximately 105,000 men and Lee, with the addition of Jackson's Valley troops, had 80,000 to 85,000. Lee proposed to leave 25,000 men to defend the Richmond lines and take the rest to attack McClellan's exposed right flank. The battles which resulted from this initial strategy became known as the Seven Days.

Lee's plan was for Stonewall Jackson, coming from the Valley, to move southeast several miles north of the Chickahominy, following a route which would put him behind Porter's lines. Jackson was to make contact with A.P. Hill. The latter would then move to the north side of the Chickahominy a mile north of Mechanicsville, turn right to force the Union troops out of Mechanicsville and drive toward the main Union line behind Beaver Dam Creek. Once A.P. Hill cleared Mechanicsville, D.H. Hill and Longstreet would cross the river, join the attack, and drive down the north bank, cutting McClellan off from his base of supplies at White House.

The morning of June 26th was the appointed time for the attack. By 3:00 P.M. Jackson had still not made contact with A.P. Hill. Hill decided to move on without Jackson, thus starting the offensive in motion. D.H. Hill and Longstreet moved across the river according to plan. However, A.P. Hill's assault was a complete failure as, without Jackson's troops attacking Porter from the rear, there was no hope of success against the strong Union position behind Beaver Dam Creek.

During the night of the 26th Porter learned that Stonewall Jackson had finally arrived on the Union right. Porter therefore retreated eastwardly past Gaines Mill and took a position behind Boatswain's Swamp. Late on the afternoon of the 27th, with Jackson finally in position, the assault against Porter's new line was irresistible and the Federal defense collapsed. The broken Union divisions moved across to the south side of the river, with Slocum's troops acting as rear guard. Darkness brought the fighting to a close.

On the next day, McClellan decided to move his base of supplies to Harrison's Landing on the James River. The only action on the 28th was the maneuvering by Magruder's 25,000 men who were defending the Richmond lines. General Lee, assuming McClellan would defend his White House base rather than abandon it, temporarily lost contact with him. The Confederates finally encountered the retreating Union army at Savage Station on the 29th and clashes occurred that day, and again at Glendale on the 30th. Both battles were vicious but because of the poor performance by the Confederate commanders, the Southerners could not achieve victory. By July 1st the Federal had established a strong line on Malvern Hill, which featured an excellent position for the use of artillery. The ensuing Confederate assaults were repulsed with great loss. The northerners then moved to Harrison's Landing and were safe from further attack because of the Union gun boats on the James River.

The campaign of the Seven Days brought to an end the Union offensive against Richmond and with General Robert E. Lee as the new leader of the Confederate forces in Virginia, the war would last another two and one half years.

## GRANT AND LEE IN 1864

By Brooks Davis

During the campaign, Grant moved to the southeast and

General E. Lee did the same, always or almost always, a march ahead of his enemy. General Lee's movement started on May 21st from Spotsylvania, crossing the Po, Ta and Mat rivers, toward a meeting with 8,500 reinforcements from Breckinridge and Beauregard. The shorter route of the Confederates enabled them to reach and fortify a position on the North Anna near Hanover Junction, the meeting point of the R.F. and P. and Virginia Central Railroads, which is about twenty-five miles from Richmond. Their reversed V position was ideal. Grant realized this and so did not really attack.

The Confederate Army was divided into corps commanded by General Ewell, A.P. Hill and Richard Anderson with cavalry under Generals Fitz Lee and Hampton. The Federal Army was actually under command of Gen. Meade with Generals Warren, Burnside, Wright and Hancock in corps command under him along with Sheridan as cavalry chief.

The Union troops moved on the 27th toward Richmond and a new supply base at White House. General Lee had preceded them to Atlee and had directed General Early (replacing a sick Richard Ewell) to attack at Bethesda Church, an attack which failed. General Baldy Smith's corps came up from Bermuda Hundred and landed at White House but General Lee anticipated his goal and sent nephew Fitz Lee to hold Cold Harbor. As Union troopers were attempting to occupy the same position, a cavalry fight naturally resulted. The arrival of Hoke's infantry division from Beauregard decided the issue, but Phil Sheridan held the crossroads at the end of the day.

General Grant then planned an assault, for there was no point in moving any further southeastward with Richmond just ten miles to the west. The Confederate line ran about seven miles south from the Totopotomoy to the Chickahominy, while the Federal line extended from about Bethesda Church to a point just south of Cold Harbor. Both armies had lost heavily and both had been reinforced so that here 60,000 Confederates opposed 110,000 Federals. The Union attack came early on June 3 with the three left corps attacking three separate points. Each prong was enfiladed and after eight minutes and 7,000 Union casualties the assaults ended.

Once again General Grant moved, this time evading his opponent, and crossed the James to begin the eventual siege of Petersburg.

## PETERSBURG

By Bob Walter

June 15, 1864 was the opening of the month-long siege of Petersburg. The Union's 18th Corps, 18,000 strong, under General William F. Smith hit Beauregard's 3000 Confederates. Due to Smith's slowness they failed to route the Confederates who were constantly receiving re-enforcements of clerks, city police, home guards and townspeople from Richmond. Lee's veterans then arrived and began to pour into the Petersburg-Richmond trenches. On June 22nd and 23rd General Grant attempted to take the Weldon railroad, but failed, as he was to do in several future assaults on the same target. During July there was little action except the constant digging, sniping and continuing cannonade from heavy caliber siege guns and mortars.

At 4:55 A.M. July 30th the plan to break the siege proposed by Lt. Col. Henry Pleasants of the 48th Penna. became reality. The mine his regiment had struggled so hard to construct shook the countryside and an enormous mass of earth sprang into the air. However, due to a breakdown in Federal command, no breakthrough followed. The grim reminder of this attempt can still be seen today as the 170 foot long, 80 feet wide and 30 foot deep hole has changed little over the past one hundred years.

On August 12th General Grant finally succeeded in temporarily destroying the Weldon Railroad, but General Lee held on with determined vigor. During September Grant continued to extend his lines westward. The battles at Peeble's Farm on the 29th and 30th and the capture of Fort Harrison

(Continued on Page 4)

## TOUR SCHEDULE

Note — All joining at Richmond: Check in at motel, identifying yourself as a C.W.R.T. member — you will be pre-registered.

Schedule subject to changes to be announced — all times are local.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 1975

- 2:55 p.m. — Check in with Registrar at Piedmont Airlines ticket counter, Chicago O'Hare Airport. *Do not* check baggage but bring it with you.
- 3:55 p.m. — Depart on Piedmont flight #86, non stop jet to Richmond, Byrd Field.
- 6:36 p.m. — Arrive, transfer to waiting buses to Howard Johnson Motel, Boulevard and Innerstate 95, Richmond.
- 7:30 p.m. — Command Post at motel.
- 8:30 p.m. — Dinner, followed by 1864 Champaign briefing by Mr. William Mallory, Richmond C.W.R.T.

### THURSDAY, MAY 1

- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. — Buffet breakfast at motel (paid for individually, each day).
- 8:15 a.m. — Board buses for Yellow Tavern and the 1864 fields.
- 12:30 p.m. — Lunch at Holiday Inn, Ashland, Virginia.
- 1:30 p.m. — Resume tour.
- 6:00 p.m. — Arrive at Confederate Museum (White House) — guests of Richmond C.W.R.T. Command Post follows here.
- 7:45 p.m. — Board buses for motel.
- 8:30 p.m. — Dinner, followed by Mr. Joseph Cullen, National Park Service, speaking on "McClellan's Peninsula Campaign."

### FRIDAY, MAY 2

- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. — Buffet breakfast.
- 8:15 a.m. — Board buses for N.P.S. Headquarters, Chimbrazo Park, followed by the 1862 fields. Box lunch in field at Garthright House.
- 5:00 p.m. — Arrive Berkeley Plantation (Harrison's Landing) for tour. Command Post follows here.
- 7:00 p.m. — Board buses for motel.
- 8:30 p.m. — Dinner, followed by Mr. Edwin Bearss, N.P.S., speaking on "Petersburg."

SPECIAL NOTICE: One bus will depart for a special tour of Williamsburg at 8:15 a.m. and arrive Berkeley 5:00 p.m. Only members that have made reservations at time of initial tour deposit are eligible.

### SATURDAY, MAY 3

- 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. — Buffet breakfast.
- 8:15 a.m. — Board buses for Petersburg. Box lunch in field.
- 7:30 a.m. — Command Post at Motel.
- 8:30 a.m. — Dinner, followed by Fun Night program, featuring Mr. Harold Howard, the ex-Confederate soldier from Appomattox, and a Richmond briefing by Mr. Hobson Goddin, Richmond C.W.R.T.

### SUNDAY, MAY 4

- 12:00 p.m. — Buffet lunch at motel. Chicago bound baggage must be packed and *outside rooms* at this time.
- 1:00 p.m. — Board buses for Richmond city tour.
- 6:15 p.m. — Arrive, Byrd Field, check in at Piedmont Airlines desk.
- 7:15 p.m. — Depart Piedmont flight #89 for O'Hare Airport, Chicago. Dinner enroute.
- 8:03 p.m. — Arrive, Chicago O'Hare Airport.



## ORDERS AND AMMUNITION

By E.B. Long

Forward! To enable you to better follow and appreciate what happened on these battlefields of 1862 and 1864, here is a selected list of some of the volumes and articles that may be of help. Many others could be included.

### General (1862 and 1864)

*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vols. II and IV.  
Catton, Bruce, *Centennial History of the Civil War*, Vols. II and III (*Terrible Swift Sword*, and *Never Call Retreat*.)

Eisenschiml, Otto, and Ralph Newman, *American Iliad*.  
Esposito, Vincent J., *The West Point Atlas of American Wars*, Vol. I. (Also available in earlier editions by Esposito and Matthew Steele.)

Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War*, Vol. I and III.  
Freeman, Douglas Southhall, *Lee's Lieutenants*, Vols. I and III, and *R.E. Lee*, Vols. II and IV.

Hassler, Warren W., *Commanders of the Army of the Potomac*.

Long, E.B., *The Civil War Day by Day*, for chronology.  
*Military Historical Society of Massachusetts Papers*, Vols. I, IV and V.

Miller's *Photographic History of the Civil War*, Vols. I, III, VIII.

Mitchell, Joseph, *Decisive Battles of the Civil War*.  
*Official Records*, Series I, (1862) Vol. XI, three parts, and (1864) Vol. XXXVI, three parts.

Vandiver, Frank, *Their Tattered Flags*.  
Articles on Drewry's Bluff in *Civil War Times*, May, 1961, and *Civil War History*, June, 1961.

### Peninsula, 1862

Allan, William, *The Army of Northern Virginia in 1862*.  
Catton, Bruce, *Mr. Lincoln's Army*.  
Cullen, Joseph P., *The Peninsula Campaign, 1862*, and *Richmond National Battlefield Park, Virginia*, pamphlet.

Dowdey, Clifford, *The Seven Days*.  
Hassler, Warren W., Jr., *General George B. McClellan*.  
Jackson biographies by Lenoir Chambers, G.F.R. Henderson, and Frank Vandiver.

McClellan, George B., *McClellan's Own Story*.  
Ropes, John Codman, *The Story of the Civil War*, Part II, *The Campaigns of 1862*.

Smith, Gustavus Woodson, *The Battle of Seven Pines*.  
*Source Book of the Peninsula Campaign*, Army General Staff School.

Webb, Alexander S., *The Peninsula*.  
Williams, K.P., *Lincoln Finds a General*, Vol. I. *1864 Campaign*

Catton, Bruce, *A Stillness at Appomattox*, and *Grant Takes Command*.

Cleaves, Freeman, *Meade of Gettysburg*.  
Cullen, Joseph P., "When Grant Faced Lee Across the North Anna," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Feb., 1965; "The Battle of Cold Harbor," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Nov., 1963; "The Siege of Petersburg," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Aug., 1970, special issue.

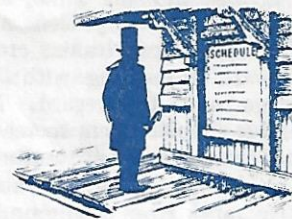
Dowdey, Clifford, *Lee's Last Campaign*.  
Fuller, J.F.C., *The Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant*, and *Grant and Lee*.

Hotchkiss, Maj. Jed., *Virginia*, Vol. III, *Confederate Military History*.

Humphreys, Andrew A., *The Virginia Campaign of '64 and '65*.

Klein, Frederic S., "Lost Opportunity at Petersburg," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Aug., 1966.

Lykes, Richard W., *Petersburg National Military Park*,



## BULLETIN BOARD

CHECK-IN-TIME: 2:55 p.m. (CDT), Wednesday, April 30, at Piedmont Airlines terminal, O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packet will be passed out.

DEPARTURE: 3:55 p.m. (CDT), Piedmont Flight #86. Arrive: Richmond Byrd Field at 6:36 p.m. (EDT).

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times, because we will be operating on a close schedule. Bus marshals will be on hand for guidance. If you plan a side excursion or join a car group, you must notify your bus marshal.

RETURN: Sunday, May 4, depart Richmond Byrd Field, Piedmont Flight #89 at 7:15 p.m. (EDT). Arrive at O'Hare Airport at 8:03 p.m. (CDT).



*Virginia*, National Park Service Historical Handbook.

Miers, Earl Schenck, *The Last Campaign, Grant Saves the Union*.

Pleasants, Henry, *Inferno at Petersburg*.

### Richmond

Bill, Alfred Hoyt, *The Beleaguered City, Richmond, 1861-1865*.

DeLeon, Thomas Cooper, *Four Years in Rebel Capitals*.

Dowdey, Clifford, *Experiment in Rebellion*.

Goddin, C. Hobson, *Richmond, Virginia, 1861-1865*, pamphlet.

Jones, John B., *A Rebel War Clerk's Diary*.

Kocher, A. Lawrence and Howard Dearstyne, *Shadows in Silver, Virginia 1850-1900, A Pictorial Record*.

Patrick, Rembert, *The Fall of Richmond*.

Putnam, Sallie A., *In Richmond During the Confederacy*.

Thomas, Emory, *The Confederate State of Richmond, A Biography of the Capital*.

*Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion*, American Guide Series.

Younger, Edward, editor, *Inside the Confederate Government, The Diary of Robert Garlick Hill Kean*.

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on the 29th added little to breaking the defense line. October was a month of lesser engagements with fights on the Darbytown Road and at Burgess Mill. November was a repeat of the preceding months — small engagements with constant misery from the weather, bullets and poor food. Confederate veterans were starting to cross over to the Union lines in ever increasing numbers.

January 1865 showed no improvement. The Confederacy, desperate for manpower, proposed prisoner exchanges, General Lee was made Commander in Chief, and still the siege continued. As February passed, Grant knew that the breaking point of Lee's army was coming closer for the desertions were ever increasing. March 25th saw General Lee hurl his last offensive action, as an attack by General Gordon on Fort Stedman caught the Union Army napping in the early morning. Though they were almost routed General Grant's veterans regrouped and forced the Confederates back. On March 29th, Grant sent Sheridan westward. Pushing past Dinwiddie Court House, he reached the road junction at Five Forks by the 31st. As a result of the Union victory there on April 1st the siege of Petersburg ended. The town was taken, Richmond was evacuated, and a week later General Lee surrendered at Appomattox.