

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLI, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April 29-May 3, 1981

## 31ST ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR: VICKSBURG

The 31st Annual Battlefield Tour of The Civil War Round Table will take us along the trail blazed by U. S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee in its campaign which concluded with the siege and capitulation of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Travel will be by Delta Airlines and air conditioned Greyhound highway cruiser, complete with the most modern conveniences (and, of course, necessary refreshments). Accommodations will be provided by the Ramada Inn in Vicksburg, which has swimming and excellent dining facilities. Vicksburg is an old settlement with many fine antebellum homes, museums, churches and an old courthouse. Once again, Ed Bearss will be our chief guide. Assisting Ed this year will be Al Scheller, an old friend of The Round Table and a member of the staff of the Vicksburg Military National Park.

On Thursday, the tour begins on the west bank of the Mississippi where we will follow the twisting, turning routes taken by the Union forces as they journeyed southward. We then cross the river and visit Bruinsburg, site of the landings by McClernand's and McPherson's Corps, and Grand Gulf, where Confederate General John S. Bowen and his division guarded against a Federal crossing. After lunch we will travel inland to the Port Gibson battlefield.

Thursday evening our dinner speaker, Ed Bearss, will prepare us for Friday's tour which includes the battles of Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill and the Big Black. Friday night Al Scheller will speak on the assaults on and siege of Vicksburg. In addition, Ed will describe the raising and restoration of the U. S. S. Cairo.

On Saturday we will take a comprehensive tour of the Vicksburg battlefield area. We will stand at Stockade Redan, the 2nd Texas Lunette, the Railroad Redoubt, and walk along Graveyard Road. After lunch, we will visit the Old Courthouse Museum and later the Cairo Museum. Saturday evening will be the traditional "fun night".

On Sunday we will start early and tour Sherman's battle of Chickasaw Bayou. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Then it's on to Jackson for an afternoon tour before departing for home.

### THE BATTLES

#### PORT GIBSON — MAY 1, 1863

On April 30, McClernand's Corps was ferried over the Mississippi and immediately began to move inland towards Port Gibson. They were followed the next day by McPherson's troops. About three miles west of Port Gibson the country roads split into a northern road and a southern road. McClernand sent the divisions of Carr and Hovey along the southern road while Osterhaus' took the northern road. Both roads followed ridges and, although they never diverged

### COST OF TOUR

\$445, Two to a room(\*); \$480, Single

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

**INCLUDES:** Round trip plane fare, bus transportation, motel room, lunches and dinners, (breakfasts are "on your own") group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 nonrefundable 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 (312) 787-1860.

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.

more than a mile or two, were separated by deep vine and cane choked ravines and neither column could support the other except by back tracking to the junction. To block this thrust, Confederate General Bowen deployed Tracy's brigade across the northern road, and Green's across the southern. At 8:15 a.m., the battle began with Union assaults on both Confederate flanks. Tracy was killed early in the fighting, and Col. Garratt assumed command.

Osterhaus' division pushed Garratt's men back 400 yards but was stopped and made no further advance until late in the afternoon when strong Union reinforcements under McPherson arrived and broke the Confederate right flank. On the southern road, Carr's and Hovey's divisions worked forward slowly until 10:00 a.m. when they assaulted Green. After a desperate struggle, Green fell back northward.

At 11:00 a.m., Green's withdrawal was covered by Baldwin's brigade, which had just arrived from Vicksburg after marching 44 miles in 27 hours. Baldwin took over the defense of the southern road while Green reorganized his brigade in the rear and then returned to the north flank to assist Garratt. The half brigade (Cockrell's) that marched up from Grand Gulf that morning constituted Bowen's reserve.

Meanwhile, while Bowen was receiving his meager reinforcements, Union reinforcements reached the field in division strength. The Federals advanced but were almost immediately checked. Bowen then took a desperate gamble. He sent Cockrell with two of his regiments far to the left. Taking advantage of the thick terrain, Cockrell was able to assail McClernand's right, and roll up Slack's brigade. To counter,

(Continued on page 2.)

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chesnut Street Chicago, Illinois 60611 Phone: (312) 944-3085

## OFFICERS

President . . . . . Robert G. Walter  
Senior Vice President . . . . . Robert H. Franke  
Vice President . . . . . Marvin Sanderman  
Vice President . . . . . Donald E. Anderson  
Secretary . . . . . Marvin Goldsher  
Assistant Secretary . . . . . Henry Pomerantz  
Treasurer . . . . . J. Robert Ziegler  
Assistant Treasurer . . . . . Daniel R. Weinberg  
Inspector General . . . . . Ted Eberly  
Commissary General . . . . . William J. Sullivan  
Assistant to the President . . . . . Nathan Yellen  
Newsletter Editor . . . . . David R. Richert  
Contributing Editors . . . . . Richard E. Clark  
Marshall D. Krolick

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms expiring in 1981: J. William Gimmel, Jr., James Girman, Paul I. Kliger, Richard J. Percy.

Terms expiring in 1982: Margaret April, Robert C. Grossman, Karl Sundstrom, Helmut Waedt.

## 1981 TOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman . . . . . Marvin Sanderman  
Registrar . . . . . Margaret April  
Newsletter . . . . . Marvin Sanderman, David Richert  
Book List . . . . . E.B. (Pete) Long  
Itinerary . . . . . Edwin C. Bearss

(Continued from page 1.)



McClermand rushed artillery and Burbridge's brigade. Superior numbers soon told, and the Confederate success was nullified. About 5:00 p.m. the Union began general attacks on both flanks. When the right gave way, the rest of Bowen's line collapsed, just as dusk was setting over the fields. Bowen retreated in good order. Union strength reached 24,000 men; Bowen had about 9,000. The Union suffered 800 casualties; Southern losses were similar.

## RAYMOND — MAY 12, 1863

On May 11, Pemberton concluded that Grant was merely feinting toward Jackson (where General Joseph Johnston was gathering his forces) and that the Union's main drive would head for Vicksburg, via Big Black Bridge. He wired General John Gregg, at Raymond, to strike the Yankees in flank and rear as soon as they turned north.

On the morning of the 12th, Gregg's scouts notified him that a small enemy force was marching up the Utica road toward Raymond. Believing this was the "feint," Gregg moved his 3,000 man brigade to attack the advancing Yankees. These "blue clads" were, in fact, McPherson's entire corps, some 10,000 strong. Gregg deployed his troops across the Utica and Gallatin roads and a 3-gun battery to cover the bridge over Fourteen Mile Creek. At 10:00 a.m. Gregg's troops opened fire at Dennis' brigade as they advanced down the road towards the creek. Quickly the Union troops began to deploy, but they soon became disconnected and out of contact with one another in the thick forest.

Gregg, still thinking he was attacking a small force, decided to pin it in front with a secondary attack, while moving his main force to strike the Federals with a "left hook." Gregg started his movement about noon, and, at first, gained ground. The Federals, still confused, gave way in some instances, but Logan dashed up and steadied his line. McPherson

continued to feed brigade after brigade into the fight. The Confederates gradually realized what they were up against; the Union counterattack about 1:30 p.m. drove the Southerners back across the creek.

Heavy Union pressure caused the 50th Tennessee on the Confederate extreme left to give way. On the Confederate right, a strong Union attack forced this wing to collapse and sent Gregg's forces into a general withdrawal. Confederate casualties totaled 515; Union losses were 442.

## JACKSON — MAY 14, 1863

Grant ordered two corps towards Jackson in the early morning. Sherman's men advanced from the southwest along the Raymond road while McPherson's troops, slightly to the north, marched eastward along the Clinton road. General Johnston had but 6,000 troops with which to defend Jackson. At 3 a.m. he decided to evacuate the city and turned command over to General Gregg with instructions to cover the army's withdrawal. Near daybreak, Gregg led Colquitt's 900 man brigade and a battery three miles out on the Clinton road. When advised that a Union column (Sherman's Corps) was advancing via the Raymond road, Gregg positioned a reinforced regiment under Col. Thompson to guard this approach. Gregg alerted his own brigade, under Col. Farguharson, to stand by in Jackson as a ready reserve.

Initial fighting occurred at 9 a.m. on the Clinton Road when the vanguards of McPherson's corps (Crocker's division) came under artillery fire. It was raining hard and McPherson had to delay until 11 a.m. When the rain ceased he ordered Crocker to attack. Colquitt's Confederates resisted but were forced back. Gregg had Farguharson make a feint far out to the north flank, but this didn't deceive McPherson. Soon all Confederate forces on the northern flank fell back within the main trenches ringing Jackson.

Meanwhile, on the southern flank, Sherman's troops were held up temporarily by Thompson's regiment and a battery firing down the Raymond road and blocking a bridge crossing a deep creek. The Federal's brought up 12 guns, which soon decided the contest. At 2 p.m., Gregg was informed that the Confederate supply train was safely clear of the city. His mission accomplished, he ordered his troops to retreat to the north.

## CHAMPION HILL — MAY 16, 1863

Late on May 14, Grant received a message from a Union spy that General Johnston had ordered Pemberton to Clinton where the two Confederate armies would unite and strike Grant's rear. Grant immediately ordered McPherson and McClermand "to turn all your forces toward Bolton Station . . ." Pemberton deployed his three divisions, some 23,000 men, along the ridge commanding Jackson Creek; Champion Hill was the highest prominence. He posted Stevensons's division to the left, Bowen's in the center and Loring's to the right. Opposing him, Grant had 32,000 effectives.

About 10 a.m. Union Generals Hovey and Logan deployed their divisions for an attack on Champion Hill and a savage contest ensued. The Union forces drove hard, captured the crest, and Waddell's battery, and drove the Confederate left back to the Jackson road. By 1 p.m., Pemberton's left had been mauled and Logan's division was in position to cut the Confederate line of retreat.

Pemberton slowly came to the conclusion that the Union troops approaching along the Middle and Raymond roads were not as great a threat to his right as the fierce Union attack that was crushing his left. Bowen and Loring were ordered to rush their divisions to support Stevenson. Both commanders

at first refused, but at Pemberton's second request Bowen moved towards Champion Hill. He quickly deployed and launched a thunderous counterattack on Hovey while S.D. Lee's brigade (under Stevenson) counterattacked against Logan. The Confederates recaptured Waddell's battery and the crest of Champion Hill. For a short time it looked as if Bowen's men might rout the Union right and capture Grant's trains parked near the Champion house.

But a fresh Union division, Crocker's, reached the field and rushed to the assistance of Hovey and Logan. Once again, the tide of battle turned and Bowen was forced back. Grant now ordered McClernand's divisions to press their attacks up the Middle and Raymond roads. Loring, commanding the Confederate right, finally moved two brigades (Buford's and Featherston's) to aid Bowen around the junction of the Jackson and Middle roads. He left Reynold's (Tilghman's) brigade the critical task of holding the Raymond road; holding this stretch of road was vital if the Confederates were to escape over the bridge at Bakers Creek.

At 5 p.m. Pemberton concluded the battle was lost and ordered a retreat. Reynolds was able to hold long enough for Stevenson's and Bowen's divisions to escape. However, by the time Loring was ready to follow, Carr's division had crossed Bakers Creek and positioned their artillery to shell down the Raymond road. Loring was forced to march down the left bank of Bakers Creek and never rejoined Pemberton's army. At Champion Hill, Pemberton lost nearly 4,300 men while inflicting losses of about 2,400 on Grant.

### **BIG BLACK — MAY 17, 1863**

In order to block the hot pursuit of Grant's army, Pemberton set up a defense line across a two mile wide bend in the Big Black river. The Southern Railroad bridge, which was their only avenue of retreat, was to their backs. McClernand's forces came up first and made contact near the center of the Confederate line. Carr's division deployed to the right, Osterhaus' in the middle and Smith's to the left. But this day belonged to General Mike Lawler's brigade. A few moments before 11:00 a.m., Lawler led his men forward into a concealed ravine near the Confederate works. He then massed his four regiments on a two-regiment front so that his attack would be a narrow battering ram. He instructed the men to fix bayonets and to hold their fire until they were charging over the Confederate works. The rebels were startled and could hardly get off a volley before Lawler's men were upon them. The charge, lasting only about 3 minutes, broke the Confederate line. Other units of the Federal army advanced and the rebels broke for the bridge. Before all of the fleeing troops could get across, the Confederates set fire to the turpentine soaked bridge and Grant captured 1,752 prisoners at a cost of 39 killed and 237 wounded. The next morning the Union army built four bridges and continued their pursuit of Pemberton.

### **VICKSBURG — MAY 19-JULY 4, 1863**

The morning of May 19 found Grant's army surrounding Vicksburg on three sides, with Porter's fleet blockading the Mississippi. Pemberton's four divisions manned the well constructed, formidable Vicksburg defenses. At 2 p.m. the Union forces assaulted; the burden of this massive attack was on Blair's division of Sherman's Corps. Blair charged the northern side of the Confederate works and came within a few yards of Stockade Redan and the 27th Louisiana Lunette before his men were pinned down. McPherson and McClernand

## **TOUR SCHEDULE**

(All times local daylight savings. Variations in schedule will be announced at lunch or dinner.)

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1981**

- 4:00 p.m.—Check-in with Registrar Margaret April at Delta Air Lines desk, O'Hare Airport.
- 5:00 p.m.—Depart Delta Flight #329. Dinner on board.
- 8:10 p.m.—Arrive Jackson. Transfer to waiting buses.
- 9:30 p.m.—Arrive Ramada Inn, Vicksburg. Mint Julip reception courtesy of Ramada Inn.

### **THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1981**

Breakfast on your own (also applies to succeeding days).

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses. Tour west bank of Mississippi—Milliken's Bend, Grant's Canal, Duckport Canal. Cross river and tour Grand Gulf, Bruinsburg.
- 12:00 p.m.—Picnic lunch.
- 1:00 p.m.—Port Gibson battlefield, Union Church.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command post, cash bar (every night).
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Ed Bearss on the battles of Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill and the Big Black.

### **FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1981**

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses. Grant's line of march, Battles of Raymond and Jackson.
- 12:00 p.m.—Picnic lunch.
- 1:00 p.m.—Battles of Champion Hill and the Big Black.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner. Speaker: Al Scheller on the assaults on and the siege of Vicksburg. Also, Ed Bearss will discuss the search for, raising and restoration of the U.S.S. Cairo.

### **SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1981**

- 8:00 a.m.—Board buses for all day tour of Vicksburg.
- 12:00 p.m.—Lunch at Tuminello's.
- 1:00 p.m.—Old Court House Museum and Cairo Museum. Return to Vicksburg Battlefield.
- 5:00 p.m.—Return to motel.
- 6:30 p.m.—Command post.
- 7:30 p.m.—Dinner and Fun Night.

### **SUNDAY, MAY 3, 1981**

- 8:15 a.m.—Board buses. Luggage must be packed and ready for pick-up. Tour of Chickasaw Bayou battlefield, Huff's Cove, Snyder's and Haynes' Bluffs.
- 12:30 p.m.—Buffet lunch at the Magnolia Best Western Restaurant in Vicksburg.
- 2:30 p.m.—Drive to Jackson, afternoon tour.
- 6:00 p.m.—Arrive Jackson Airport.
- 6:55 p.m.—Depart for O'Hare, Delta Flight #1730. Snack en route.
- 9:35 p.m.—Arrive O'Hare.

(continued on page 4)

## MARCHING ORDERS

by E. B. "Pete" Long  
University of Wyoming



The following is a partial bibliography of the Vicksburg Campaign. All histories of the American Civil War mention to a greater or lesser degree the Vicksburg Campaign. We have confined this bibliography generally to the articles, volumes, and pamphlets more directly concerned with Vicksburg, the campaign and the area.

American Heritage, *Picture History of the Civil War*, text by Bruce Catton.

*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Vol. III primarily.

Bearss, Edwin C., *Decision in Mississippi*.

Bearss, Edwin C., *Hardluck Ironclad; the Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*.

Betterworth, John K., *Confederate Mississippi*.

Brown, D. Alexander, *Grierson's Raid*.

Cadwallader, Sylvanus, *Three Years with Grant*, edited by Benjamin P. Thomas.

Carter, Samuel, III, *The Final Fortress: The Campaign for Vicksburg 1862-63*, new and useful.

Catton, Bruce, *Grant Moves South*, major biography.

Catton, Bruce, *Never Call Retreat*.

Commager, Henry S., ed., *The Blue and the Gray*.

Everhart, William C., *Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi*, National Park Service Handbook.

Eisenschiml, Otto, and Ralph Newman, *The American Illiad*, also issued as *The Civil War*.

Fiske, John, *The Mississippi Valley in the Civil War*.

Foote, Shelby, *The Civil War, A Narrative*, Vol. II.

Fuller, J.F.C., *The Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant*.

Gosnell, H. A., *Guns on the Western Waters*.

Grant, U.S., *Personal Memoirs*.

Grant, U.S., *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*, edited by John Y. Simon, Vol. 7 and 8.

Greene, Francis Vinton, *The Mississippi*, useful.

Hoehling, A. A., *Vicksburg*.

Johnston, Joseph E., *Narrative of Military Operations*.

Jones, Archer, *Confederate Strategy from Shiloh to Vicksburg*.

Livermore, William R., "The Vicksburg Campaign," *Papers of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts*, Vol. IX.

Loughborough, Mary Ann, *My Cave Life in Vicksburg*.

Mahan, A. T., *The Gulf and Inland Waters*.

Miers, Earl Schenck, *The Web of Victory, Grant at Vicksburg. Official Records Union and Confederate Navies*, Series I, Vols. 23, 24, and 25.

*Official Records Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, Parts I, II, III for main coverage. Also Vol. XVII, Parts I and II for 1862.

Pemberton, John C., *Pemberton, Defender of Vicksburg*.

Reed, Samuel Rockwell, *The Vicksburg Campaign and the Battles Around Chattanooga*.

Rowland, Dunbar, *History of Mississippi*.

Sherman, William T., *Memoirs*.

"Struggle for Vicksburg: The Battles & Siege That Decided the Civil War," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, July, 1967, also available bound, quite useful survey with maps.

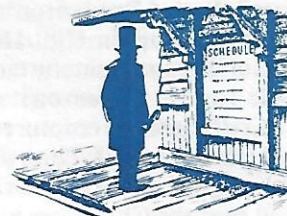
Vandiver, Frank E., *Their Tattered Flags*.

Walker, Peter Franklin, *Vicksburg, A People at War, 1860-65*.

Wheeler, Richard, *The Siege of Vicksburg*.

Williams, Kenneth P., *Lincoln Finds A General*, Vol. IV, Iuka to Vicksburg.

## BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN TIME: 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, 1981 at Delta Airlines Terminal, O'Hare Airport. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special Delta Airlines desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packets will be distributed. Please do not check your luggage before registering at desk.

DEPARTURE: 5:00 p.m. Delta Airlines Flight #329. Arrive Memphis at 6:23 p.m. Depart at 7:30 p.m. on Delta flight #1721. Arrive Jackson at 8:10 p.m.

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 3, 1981, depart Jackson Airport on Delta Flight #1730 at 6:55 p.m. Arrive O'Hare at 9:35 p.m. (one stop—Memphis—no change of planes).

(Continued from page 3.)



nand also attacked, but without success. At dark, all Union troops retired to the ridges on which they had earlier formed. Three days later Grant tried again. The assault was preceded by a four hour bombardment; at 10:00 a.m. Grant launched an all-out attack. Sherman's corps advanced down Graveyard road, four abreast, but the Confederates posted in Stockade Redan quickly halted this thrust. McPherson attacked along Jackson road, but he was stopped by the Rebels holding the 3rd Louisiana Redan. McClernand met with some initial success when he attacked and drove the 30th Alabama from the Railroad Redoubt. However, the Confederates counterattacked and the men of Waul's Texas Legion recovered the redoubt. Grant's second assault on Vicksburg had failed and he settled down to siege tactics. Vicksburg surrendered on July 4.

### CHICKASAW BAYOU — DEC. 29, 1862

Grant's strategy in the early winter of 1862 was to capture Vicksburg using a two-prong land and water attack. The left-prong, under Grant's personal command and consisting of about 30,000 men, was to march overland against the Confederate army below Oxford, Mississippi and attack Vicksburg from the east. Sherman, commanding the right-prong with an equal number of troops, was to transport them down the Mississippi river, land above Vicksburg and attack from the north. Unknown to Sherman, Grant's column was stopped and forced back when Confederate cavalry, under Van Dorn, raided and destroyed Grant's supply base at Holly Springs.

On the evening of December 28, Sherman decided to attack although "Not one word could I hear from General Grant who was supposed to be pushing south." The main assault was shouldered by Blair's and DeCourcy's brigades, while A. J. and M. L. Smith led diversionary attacks. Blair's and DeCourcy's men struggled across the bayou, climbed an embankment covered with a strong abatis, and charged the Confederate's main line. They were moved down by a storm of shells, grape, canister, and minie-balls and the assault failed completely. Union losses totaled over 2,000 against fewer than 200 for the rebels.