

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIII, Number 2

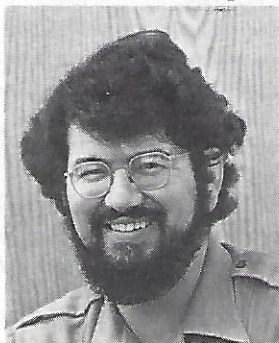
Chicago, Illinois

October, 1982

RICHARD W. HATCHER ON THE WILSON'S CREEK CAMPAIGN

Because of its resources and location, Missouri was a key state for both the north and the south in 1861. The campaign for its control, which culminated in the Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861, will be Richard W. Hatcher, III's, subject when he addresses The Round Table meeting on October 8. Hatcher, interpretive specialist at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield since 1978, is a man well-acquainted with his subject. We are thus assured of an interesting look at this little discussed aspect of the war.

As the Union began to split apart in early 1861, both North and South realized the strategic value of the border states and the significant part they would play in the approaching conflict. Both governments coveted the agricultural and natural resources of the State of Missouri; they also desired to possess its large manpower pool and strategic geographic location. According to the Preliminary Census Report of 1860,



RICHARD W. HATCHER

Missouri ranked eighth in population and had been the seventh fastest growing state since 1790. In agriculture, the state ranked in the top ten for the production of the following: wool, Indian corn, flour and meal, tobacco, cattle, hogs, horses, asses, mules, and sheep. Missouri ranked eighth in production of sawed and planed lumber and sixth in iron founding. In the year ending June 1, 1860, the state produced 4,164 tons of lead.

Missouri's geographic position was especially vital. The Mississippi River formed most of the state's eastern border. The Missouri River bisected the state in a line from Kansas City to St. Louis and defined its western border from Kansas City north. If the Union lost control of Missouri, it not only lost control of two major waterways, but also of three of the nation's major overland communication routes—the Oregon Trail, the Santa Fe Trail and the Pony Express all originated within the boundaries of the state. Finally, if the South was able to maintain control of the state, Kansas, the newest member of the Union, would be entirely cut off, and Iowa and Illinois would be directly threatened.

It was clear to Captain Nathaniel Lyon when he moved against the pro-Confederates at Camp Jackson near St. Louis that he was playing for high stakes. This event opened the War in the West and marked the beginning of a campaign which culminated in the Battle of Wilson's Creek. In this campaign, various elements of Lyon's command, the Army of the West, engaged disor-



414th REGULAR MEETING

RICHARD W. HATCHER
ON
THE WILSON'S CREEK CAMPAIGN

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1982

Como Inn
546 N. Milwaukee
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$12.50 per person



MEETING SITE

Please note that we will return to our regular meeting site, the Como Inn, for the October meeting.

ganized Southern forces in two skirmishes and the Battle of Carthage before both sides concentrated in and about Springfield prior to the August 10 battle on Oak Hills.

The Union defeat at Wilson's Creek played a leading role in determining the outcome of the War in the Missouri-Arkansas region. The short term results saw General Sterling Price of the Missouri State Guard move north and capture the Missouri River town of Lexington in September of 1861. These two events encouraged pro-Southern governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, to lead his state out of the Union and into the ranks of the Confederacy. In the long run, Union leaders in Washington awoke to the reality of losing the State of Missouri and began an intensive campaign designed to secure control of the state.

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

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Phone: (312) 944-3085

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Ward C. Smidl, 1104 Whippoorwill Lane, Palatine, Illinois 60007.



CIVIL WAR CONFERENCE

At its meeting September 10, the Executive Committee approved a proposal that The Round Table sponsor an annual Civil War Conference. The first will be held Saturday, June 11, 1983, in conjunction with the annual Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Details remain to be worked out; however, it is anticipated that the morning sessions would consider battlefield preservation and future conferences. In the afternoon there would be several speakers. The Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Program would take place in the evening. Civil War enthusiasts from around the midwest are expected to attend.

Conference co-chairmen Paul Kliger and Charles Wesselhoef, and president Marv Sanderman, are seeking persons interested in assisting in the development of the conference.

Cassette tapes of Civil War-related "You are There" programs are being made available by Leslie MacDonald for \$5 each. The selections change each month; the October tape contains "The Bombardment of Fort Sumter" and "The First Battle of Bull Run." Future selections will include "The Monitor and the Merrimac," "Lee and Grant at Appomatox," "The Assassination of Lincoln," and "The Capture of John Wilkes Booth." She also has available, by preorder only, a wide variety of non-Civil War related "You are There" programs, and the VHS videotaped motion picture, "Birth of a Nation," for rental at \$15 a month. All proceeds from the sale of the cassettes goes to The Round Table.

For further information, or to place an order, call Leslie at 878-1599.

As an outgrowth of the Members' Resource Exchange, which was designed to help bring members with common interests together, a Members' Discussion Group has been formed. Informal "rap" sessions will be held after regular meetings; they will last 30 to 45 minutes. The first session will be held after the October meeting and will consider "Why was Jackson defeated at Kernstown?" All Round Table members and guests are welcome to participate. Future topics will be announced later.

An additional contribution to the Research Fund, in memory of Elmer Underwood, has been received from Daniel L. McCarthy.

The 2nd Great American Civil War Book, Paper & Image Fair will be held October 16 in Fairfax, Virginia. Over 70 dealers from 16 states will be offering books, letters, diaries, periodicals, maps, music, documents, bonds, currency, stamps, photographs and reproductions. For further information, contact: C. Batson, Show Manager, 10453 Medina Road, Richmond, Virginia 23235 (804) 272-5558.

We have just learned of the passing, on June 28, of fellow member Michael W. Fielding. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The strategic tug-of-war that took place in the spring of 1862 was the subject of Robert G. Tanner's remarks when he addressed 115 Round Table members and guests at the first meeting of the year September 10. This tug-of-war, he explained, was between the Federals who wanted to send as many troops as possible to help McClellan in the final drive on Richmond, and the Confederates who wanted to prevent this, specifically by forcing the north to divert troops to the Shenandoah Valley to fight Jackson. Tanner described in detail how the south, and particularly Jackson, won this tug-of-war.

He began by noting that war is the domain of the uncertain, campaigns do not preexist in the minds of generals. Rather, he said, unsuspected opportunities arise and are taken or missed. This, he added, applied to Jackson—he did not know what he was going to do in the Valley in advance.

Turning to the Valley campaign, he noted how, in the spring of 1862, one final push could have been expected to end the war. The north was making progress everywhere, and McClellan planned to deliver the final blow to Richmond. This involved transferring his army away from Washington. However, Lincoln did not want to leave the city uncovered, and required that a sufficient force be left to defend it.

Union general N.P. Banks was to remove the Confederates from the lower Shenandoah Valley (at Winchester), and then return to Washington as the defending force. At first things went well and Banks chased the Confederates south. By mid-March he began to redeploy back to Washington and McClellan headed for Richmond.

Stonewall Jackson, who had orders to keep as many Federals in the Valley as possible, headed rapidly for Winchester. He had information that all of the Federal troops were gone. However, an entire division was in the Valley, and, outnumbered three to one, he was easily defeated at Kernstown. Although this battle was little more than a skirmish, it had great strategic impact. The Federal redeployment out of the Valley ceased, shattering the initial Federal plan. The void created by Banks being forced to remain in the Valley meant other troops had to be detached from McClellan's army to guard Washington. The Confederates were winning the tug-of-war.

Jackson, with Banks to his north and Fremont to his west, had no Valley campaign in mind at this point, explained Tanner. His main concern was to stay alive and maintain his front to fulfill his mission of tying down the Federals in the Valley. By the end of April he had retreated to the Blue Ridge Mountains (Swift Run Gap). Meanwhile, McClellan had landed on the Peninsula and the Federal forces at Washington began heading south to join him. Jackson was tied in place by greatly superior enemy forces.

His moves at this point, Tanner said, were prompted by common sense. He had to keep the two Federal armies apart and protect his supply base at Staunton. Thus, he planned to concentrate and drive Fremont back and then turn on Banks. He had not thought any further ahead than that, said Tanner, who points out that the Jackson-Lee correspondence of this period shows only a sketchy discussion of broader strategic possibilities. Threatening Washington was never discussed.

Things began to move rapidly in early May. Although suffering heavy casualties, he forced Fremont to withdraw at the Battle of McDowell. To keep the Federal forces in the Valley (the north was trying to put their initial plan back on target), Jackson marched north rapidly. The federal troops in the Valley were spread out, and Jackson could strike against numerically inferior forces. With his 14,000 men he easily took Front Royal and cut off Banks's escape route to the east. Banks headed north with Jackson in pursuit—after a three day chase Banks was effec-

tively destroyed as a fighting force and Jackson was in control of Winchester (which meant he was in fact north of Washington).

Many maintain that this situation created panic in the north, but Tanner said there is no real basis for such talk. For example, he said, the stock exchange did not fluctuate unduly at that time. However, he said, the situation did alter the strategic balance. Lincoln could not resist the chance to trap Jackson and sent Shields back to the Valley with 20,000 men, which made it impossible for McDowell to cross the Rappahannock and move on Richmond. Fremont was also ordered in from the west.

Although he had achieved his objective of tying down Federal forces in the Valley, Jackson moved further north to Harper's Ferry—he had no idea Fremont was advancing. He learned of this on May 30 and began making his escape by the only route possible, the Valley Pike. Shields was only about 14 miles from the Pike at Strasburg. Only by hard marching, and the fact that Shields and Fremont wandered onto the wrong roads, was Jackson able to escape.

The Federal forces chased him up the Valley; by the end of the first week of June he had retreated 100 miles to Port Republic. Despite Jackson's retreat, however, Shields and Fremont were still tied down in the Valley. Two battles, at Cross Keys and Port Republic, forced Fremont and Shields to retire; Jackson withdrew into the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Valley Campaign was now over, but McClellan was still without the support of Federal troops who were spread across Virginia instead of at Richmond where they were supposed to be. From start to finish, Tanner concluded, it was a tug-of-war that the south eventually won. But, he added, it was fought in the fog of war. Jackson never really knew what lay ahead, but he made effective use of his limited resources and managed to be in the right place at the right time.

(continued from page 1)

This effort quickly achieved one of its goals, that of driving the pro-Confederate government from the state. By the time of the Union victory at Pea Ridge, Missouri's Secessionist government was exiled in Arkansas. The other goal, making Missouri totally Union, was realized only after the state, like the others on the border, succumbed to the inexorable pressure of Federal manpower and money. Beginning with the Wilson's Creek Campaign, Missouri became the third most hotly contested state in the theatre of the Civil War, suffering 1,162 military actions within its borders.

Rick Hatcher was born in Richmond, Virginia, and raised on Edge Hill where sat Battery No. 2 of the city's inner defenses. With Civil War landmarks in constant view and a family history which included service to the Confederacy, Rick developed an early and enthusiastic interest in the war. At Virginia Commonwealth University he pursued courses in the field of American History and received his B. A. in 1973. In 1970, serving as a volunteer at Richmond National Battlefield Park in the Living History program, he became involved with the National Park Service and determined to work for that agency as a historian.

In the spring of 1976, after working at Richmond and Ft. Washington Park as a volunteer and at Gulf Islands National Seashore-Florida as a seasonal park technician-historian, Rick began full time work at Colonial National Historical Park as a patrol ranger. From there he transferred to Kings Mountain National Military Park accepting a position as Lead Park Technician in that park's historical division. He transferred to Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in 1978 as Interpretive Specialist. Upon arriving at the Battlefield, Rick joined the Civil War Round Table of the Ozarks where he currently serves as second vice president.

THE NEW BOOKS



(Compiled by Dick Clark)

Fuld, George and Melvin. *Patriotic Civil War Tokens: A Descriptive and Price Catalogue of the Die Varieties of Patriotic Type Tokens Used as a Substitute for Money during the American Civil War.* 3rd rev. ed. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, [1981]. 77 p.bk. \$10.00.

Fuld, George and Melvin. *U.S. Civil War Store Cards.* 2nd edition. Lawrence, Mass.: Quarterman Publications, [1982?]. New Printing of the second edition. 704 p. \$50.00.

Harsock, Andrew Jackson. *Soldier of the Cross: The Civil War Diary and Correspondence of Rev. Andrew Jackson Harsock.* James and Eleanor Durham, editors. Manhattan, Kansas: Sunflower University Press, 1979. 275 p. illus. \$27.50.

Lowry, Terry. *The Battle of Scary Creek.* Military Operations in the Kanawha Valley, April-July 1861. Charleston, W. Va.: Pictorial Histories Publishing Co. 192 p., maps, photos. Pbk. \$7.95.

Mathis, Ray. *In the Land of the Living: The War Between the States by the Residents of the Chattahoochee Valley.* Troy, Alabama: Troy State University Press, 1981.

The Virginia Regimental Histories Series proposes to issue some 100 volumes dealing with each Virginia unit and Virginia soldier of the Civil War. Limited to 600 copies. First two:

Krick, Robert. *9th Virginia Cavalry.* Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc. \$14.95.

Robertson, James I. *4th Virginia Infantry.* Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc. \$14.95.

There is still time to sign up for The Civil War Round Table Fall Tour to Springfield which will be held October 30 and 31, 1982. The cost is only \$100 per person which includes transportation, lodging and meals (except breakfast). Among the places to be visited are Lincoln College, the Old State Capitol, the Lincoln Home, and New Salem State Park. The bus will make three pickups Saturday morning—Edens Plaza North, the Lincoln Bookshop, and the Intersection of the Stevenson Expressway and Route 83.

To reserve your place, send a check made payable to The Civil War Round Table, to Registrar Margaret April, 18 E. Chestnut, Chicago, Illinois 60611, along with your name and address (use the form included with the September newsletter if you can). Please indicate where you plan to get on the bus. For further information, call 787-1860.

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John Davenport, 10008 Carlton Lane, Schaumburg, Illinois 60193.

Al Hadden, 155 Harbor #3004, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 861-0181.

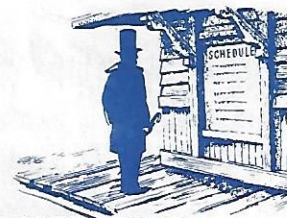
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R. Clayton Krueger, 13050 Greenwood Avenue, Blue Island, Illinois 60406.

Arthur Kunis, M.D., 2947 W. Jarlath Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60645.

Richard F. Lemal, 43A Bernard Avenue, Bernardsville, New

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Como Inn, 546 N. Milwaukee Avenue, the second Friday in each month except as noted.

October 8: Richard W. Hatcher, III, on "The Wilson's Creek Campaign,"

October 30-31: Fall Tour to Springfield, Illinois

November 12: Stephen Oates on "John Brown: Catalyst for the Civil War."

December 10: Perry D. Jamieson on "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War Era."

January 14, 1983: To be announced.

February 11: C. Robert Douglas on "General George H. Thomas: 'Time and History Will Do Me Justice.'"

March 11: John Divine on "Cavalry Campaigns: A Prelude to Gettysburg."

April 8: Robert V. Johannsen on "Senator Stephen A. Douglas."

April 27-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour to Chattanooga-Chickamauga.

May 13: Kathy Georg on "The Battle of Gettysburg."

June 11: Civil War Conference. Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner and Installation of Officers. Recipient of award: Dr. John Hope Franklin

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