

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLIV, Number 9

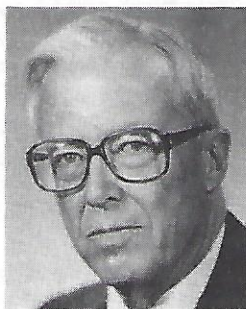
Chicago, Illinois

May, 1984

Walter N. Trenerry on John Pope: His Political Problems and His Pratfall at Second Bull Run

Bitter party politics entered into every phase of the Civil War, and in no case was this intrusion more pronounced than in the career of John Pope. At The Round Table meeting May 18, Walter N. Trenerry, a retired attorney from West St. Paul, Minnesota, will outline how both leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties contributed to Pope's downfall by spotlighting him as the Republican hopeful, and making his Army of Virginia the 'Republican' army as counterpoint to the 'Democratic' Army of the Potomac, then led by McClellan.

Born in Louisville, Kentucky, Pope was appointed to West Point in 1838 and ranked 17th when he graduated in 1842. In May, 1846, he was assigned to General Taylor's army in Texas and served throughout the Mexican War. He was made a brevet 1st lieutenant for services at Monterey and won his captain's bars at Buena Vista. His service until the outbreak of the Civil War included a number



Walter N. Trenerry

of topographical survey and experimental assignments. Appointed a brigadier general in May, 1861, he was ordered to serve with Gen. Fremont in Missouri. In March and April, 1862, he commanded the Army of the Mississippi in the Federal operations to open that river. While Grant moved up the Tennessee river to capture Forts Henry and Donelson, Pope advanced against the Confederate defenses of the Mississippi at New Madrid, Missouri and Island No. 10. When Pope forced surrender of these forces on April 6-7, 1862, he opened the Mississippi to Memphis. During this campaign, Pope was made a major general and after the battle of Shiloh, his army was recalled to join Grant and Buell's troops in the advance on and siege of Corinth, Mississippi. His accomplishments in this theatre brought him to the attention of the authorities in Washington, and in June, 1862, Lincoln and Secretary of War Stanton offered him the command of the newly formed Army of Virginia. This force would guard Washington, chase 'Stonewall' Jackson's troops out of the Shenandoah Valley and then unite with McClellan's Army of the Potomac in attacking Richmond.

Pope approached his assignment with misgivings, as he had no choice of his key subordinates and had to accept three defeated corps commanders, Fremont, Banks and McDowell. Fremont, who had been his commander in



431st Regular Meeting

Walter N. Trenerry
on
John Pope: His Political Problems and His
Pratfall at Second Bull Run

Friday, May 18, 1984

Note: this is the third Friday of the month

Hotel Continental
505 N. Michigan
Boulevard Room, 5th Floor
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$13.00 per person
Entree: Seafood Newberg



Executive Committee meeting

President Don Anderson has announced there will be an executive committee meeting at 5 p.m. on May 18, just prior to the regular meeting. It will be held in the Boulevard Room on the 5th floor. All current officers, committee chairmen and past presidents are urged to attend.

Missouri, resented Pope's appointment so keenly that he asked to be relieved of his command. Many of the reinforcements for Pope's new army, drawn from the Army of the Potomac, were intensely loyal to McClellan and resented their transfer from his command. Pope compounded

(continued on page 2)

April meeting

Three different forces were instrumental in shaping John Bell Hood, according to Professor Richard M. McMurry who addressed The Round Table on April 13th. One factor was the times in which he grew up in Montgomery County, Kentucky. Prior to 1831, the year of Hood's birth, there wasn't such a thing as the 'South'. The people who lived in the southern part of America thought of themselves as 'Americans'.

In 1831, two events were to change this attitude. In Boston, William Lloyd Garrison began to publish a militant anti-slavery newspaper called 'The Liberator'. This was not the first paper to criticize the institution of slavery, but prior to Garrison's time, people who criticized slavery were moderates. Garrison was a harsh, intemperate man who was convinced that slavery was a moral wrong and ought to be abolished right away. The other event occurred in August in Southampton County, Virginia, when a group of slaves led by Nat Turner staged the bloodiest slave rebellion in American history. The South after these events started to close itself off from the outside world—it drew a "cotton curtain" around itself to keep out dangerous ideas. John Bell Hood was the only one of the Confederacy's full generals who was affected by this new type of emotional climate in the South.

The second factor that shaped Hood's outlook was his association with Robert E. Lee. Hood first met Lee in 1852-53 when he was a senior at West Point and Lee was superintendent there. When Hood and Lee were officers in the 2nd U.S. cavalry, they often spent a great deal of time together. Lee became a psychological father to Hood.

The third factor in shaping Hood's personal conduct and the way he conducted himself as a general was the experience he acquired during the battles of 1862. When 1862 began, Hood was a relatively unknown colonel commanding the 4th Texas regiment. When 1862 ended, Hood was a major general in the Army of Northern Virginia commanding four brigades. Hood rose to this position through his conduct in three of the great battles that year, Gaines Mill, 2nd Manassas and Antietam. In all those battles, Hood's attacks had been successful. His experience in these battles taught him a lesson, that successful conduct of a battle was to be gained by an attack on the enemy lines—take the offensive.

Hood was a division commander at Gettysburg where he was wounded by the fragment of an artillery shell. The nerves and muscles in his arm were virtually destroyed. Some of the officers of Hood's division came to see him while he was recuperating and asked him to accompany them to Georgia. On September 20, 1863, he was given the command of what amounted to a corps—five divisions. At the battle of Chickamauga Hood was hit by a bullet in the right leg above the knee, and the leg had to be amputated at the hip.

He was now promoted to lieutenant general, became a great friend of President Davis and was engaged to the beautiful Sally Preston. Hood and Davis were often seen together around Richmond. When Hood was promoted to lieutenant general in 1864, many people thought it was due to his attentions to the President.

A problem for Hood during the winter of 1863-64 was the decision to send him to the Army of Tennessee. There was a lieutenant general's vacancy in that army. Once Davis had decided to promote Hood, the only assignment he could give him was in the Army of Tennessee. When Hood arrived at headquarters in Dalton, Georgia, he found the

army commanded by Joseph E. Johnston, one of the most intriguing, the most fascinating and most frustrating of Confederate generals. By mid-July, avoiding any unnecessary risks, Johnston had retreated to the outskirts of Atlanta, Georgia. His retreat had exposed all of Alabama, the industrial heartland of the Confederacy, to Sherman's army, and Johnston had lost 25,000 men.

President Davis was forced to consider whether or not to remove Johnston as commander of the Army of Tennessee, and if removed, who should take his place. Davis felt that the Confederacy's loss of Alabama would be absolute disaster. Davis consulted several people and on July 17, made his decision to replace Johnston with Hood. McMurry believes that Davis's decision to remove Johnston was a wise one, given the information available to him at that time. Davis had to decide who was to take Johnston's place. The new commander had to come from the army itself—not someone from some distant place. There was not enough time to get there and not enough time to familiarize the person with the situation once he got there. Within the Army of Tennessee, there were only two realistic choices: Hardee or Hood. Besides favoring Johnston's retiring policy, Hardee was also personally antagonistic to Bragg, and his appointment would not have improved relations between army headquarters and Richmond.

In summary, Davis's decision to remove Johnston was wise. The selection of Hood was more questionable but, considering the available information, was logical and as good a choice as the president could have made. The basic problem was the weakness of Southern leadership—the Confederacy did not have a general, other than Lee, competent to lead one of its armies against a larger force, and Davis simply could do nothing about that problem in July 1864.

Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr., author of *A New Birth of Freedom: Lincoln at Gettysburg*, has received the Barondess/Lincoln Award of the Civil War Round Table of New York for 1984. The award, given annually, is for "contribution to the greater appreciation of the life and works of Abraham Lincoln."

Nominating Committee report

Marv Sanderman, chairman of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1984-85 year:

President	J. Robert Ziegler
Senior Vice President	Paul I. Klinger
Vice President	Patricia Krelle Sumner
Vice President	William J. Sullivan
Secretary	David St. John
Treasurer	Paul M. Klekner
Assistant Secretary	Leslie MacDonald
Assistant Treasurer	Richard W. McAdoo
Trustee	Mary J. Abroe
Trustee	Martin P. Dutch
Trustee	James Vlazney
Trustee	Daniel R. Weinberg

Trustee (to fill the unexpired term
of Patricia Krelle Sumner

Sidney Bernstein

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor. Three current members of the Board of Trustees, J. William Gimbel, Jr., William Margeson, and Joseph Wisheart, will remain in office for the coming year as they complete their two-year terms.



THE NEW BOOKS

(compiled by Dick Clark)

Morgenthau, Hans J. and David Hein. *Essays on Lincoln's Faith and Politics*. Edited by Kenneth W. Thompson. Lanham, New York, London: University Press of America, 1983. Pbk \$8.75, hard-cover \$20.75.

Smith, Myron J., Jr. *The U.S. Gunboat Carondelet, 1861-1865*. Manhattan, KS: MA/AH Pub., 1982. viii leaves, 195 p., \$25.00.

Todd, Frederick P. *American Military Equipage 1851-1872. Volume II. State Forces*. In collaboration with Maria P. Todd/Damerel, Michael J. McAfee, Lee A. Wallace, Jr., and George Woodbridge. With illustrations by Michael J. McAfee and others. [NY]: Chatham Square Press, c1983. 603-1331 p. \$49.95.

U.S. Navy Dept. *Register of Officers of the Confederate States Navy 1861-1865*. As compiled and revised by the Office of Naval Records and Library United States Navy Department 1931, from all available data. With a new introduction by John M. Carroll. Mattituck, NY: J.M. Carroll & Company, c1983. 220 p., \$22.95.

U.S. War Dept. *List of Field Officers, Regiments, and Battalions in the Confederate States Army, 1861-1865*. With a new introduction by John M. Carroll. Mattituck, NY: J.M. Carroll & Company, c1983. 131, 91 p., \$22.95. Original of 1897.

U.S. War Dept. *List of Staff Officers of the Confederate States Army, 1861-1865*. With a new introduction by John M. Carroll. Mattituck, NY: J.M. Carroll & Company, c1983. 186 p. \$19.95. Original of 1891.

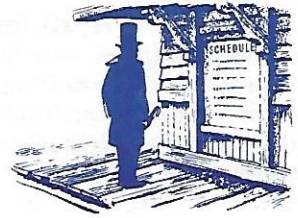
Wright, Marcus J. *General Officers of the Confederate Army. Officers of the Executive Departments of the Confederate States, Members of the Confederate Congress by States*. Compiled and prepared by... With a new introduction by John M. Carroll. Mattituck, NY: J.M. Carroll & Company, c1983. 188 p., \$20.95. Original of 1911.

Lincoln Symposium

A symposium, "Lincoln and the American Political Tradition," will be held at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island June 7-9, 1984. Among the papers to be presented are: Don E. Fehrenbacher, "The Words of Lincoln;" James M. McPherson, "Abraham Lincoln and the Second American Revolution;" Michael F. Holt, "Lincoln and the Politics of Union;" William E. Gienapp, "Who Voted for Lincoln?;" Stephen B. Oates, "Abraham Lincoln, Republican in the White House;" and Robert H. Wiebe, "Lincoln's Democracy." There will also be several workshops and an exhibit.

There is no registration fee for the symposium due to support form the National Endowment for the Humanities. Room and board is \$65 per person, double occupancy. The registration deadline is May 15; it will be limited to the first 225 applicants. For further information, write or call Frank J. Williams, Chair, The Lincoln Symposium, 2 Williams Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903 (401) 331-2222.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Hotel Continental, 505 N. Michigan, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

May 18: Walter N. Trenerry on "John Pope: His Political Problems and His Prarfall at Second Bull Run." **Note:** This is the third Friday of the month.

June 8: Dan Jordan on "John S. Mosby."

July 29: Picnic

September 15: Second Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly. Recipient of Award: Richard B. Harwell.

New members

Peter Carlson, 1100 N. LaSalle, Apt. 913, Chicago, Illinois 60610 (312) 787-0579.

Randall W. Connell, 111 Fairway, Alvin, Texas 77511 (713) 331-0421.

Changes of address

Robert C. Grossman, 5301 West Dempster, Skokie, Illinois 60077 (312) 966-4010.

Al Hadden, 153 E. Palmetto Park Rd., #227, Boca Raton, Florida 33432.

The University of Virginia's Alderman Library at Charlottesville recently acquired an original daguerrotype of John Singleton Mosby taken in 1851 when Mosby was studying law at the school. The \$2000 cost of the picture was donated by the University of Virginia Alumni Association and a private endowment for rare books and manuscripts.

Here are three museums you may have missed. The War Museum and Library of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in Philadelphia contains an unparalleled collection of guns, battlefield artifacts, soldiers' memoirs, photographs and paintings dealing with Lincoln and the Union side of the war. It also contains a library of 12,000 books. For more information, call (215) 735-8196.

Occupying two rooms on the second floor over a strip bar just off Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C. is the Red Light Museum and Gift Shop housing memorabilia dating back to a time when prostitution was legal and swearing in the street was not. On display in the red-draped rooms are various erotica including a Victorian-era slide show, 19th century photographs, daguerreotypes and lithographs of ladies of the evening, a map of the District of Columbia locating the bordellos—a great many of which were found near the White House and Capitol Hill—and of course, a portrait of General Joseph Hooker.

And in Atlanta, across from Omni International, is the Gone with the Wind Museum. On display are various artifacts relating to the movie and such items as the theater seats which Margaret Mitchell and Clark Gable used when they attended the world premiere at Loew's Grand Theater on December 15, 1939.