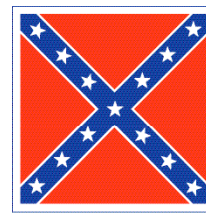


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXV, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 2005



642nd REGULAR MEETING

NAT HUGHES

ON

TYREE HARRIS BELL

Friday, June 10

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

London Broil,

Catch of the Day or

Vegetable/Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, June 6**, by calling 630-460-1865. We now also have a new online dinner reservation system at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, June 8 will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

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 \$5 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$8 with a validated parking sticker.

NATHANIEL C. HUGHES

- on -

“Tyree Harris Bell”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Thousands of Southerners rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest, that “Dread Warrior” of Tennessee. For generations Forrest’s story has been told and retold by worshipful soldiers, South and North, and by admiring historians, North and South. Indeed, Forrest, “The Wizard of the Saddle”, has become a military figure of international renown.

However, the principal subordinates of this legendary Confederate cavalry leader remain blurry background figures: William H. “Red” Jackson, Abraham “Abe” Buford, James R. Chalmers, Frank C. Armstrong and Tyree Bell. Like most of the brigade and division commanders in the Confederate army, Jackson, Buford, Armstrong and Chalmers had received college educations, and the first three served in the prewar U.S. army. The other lieutenant, Tyree Harris Bell, was cut from different cloth—a farmer with no prewar military experience whatsoever, a prototype citizen-soldier.

Bell has been overlooked by historians, as have Forrest’s other principal subordinates, largely, it seems, because of the powerful magnetism of their chief. Yet how can one understand Forrest and his importance in the American Civil War without knowledge of those lieutenants entrusted with carrying out his designs. “Wizard” as he was, Forrest nonetheless never won a battle by himself.

Nat Hughes first encountered Tyree Harris Bell while writing a book on the Battle of Belmont, where Bell led the 12th Tennessee Infantry. This overnight soldier performed with conspicuous and surprising competence during the 12th’s



Nathaniel C. Hughes

first combat. Bell later switched to the cavalry, raising a cavalry regiment in West Tennessee behind Union lines. He led a brigade of cavalry with “promptness and energy” in Forrest’s most spectacular late war engagements, including Brice’s Crossroads, Tupelo and Fort Pillow. Nat Hughes believed Bell would lead him to Forrest using a road less traveled. Thus he and two of Bell’s great-grandchildren spent three years preparing the general’s biography.

A native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr. attended Yale University and the University of North Carolina, receiving a Ph.D. in American History from the latter school. Headmaster of various schools in Tennessee, teaching English and History, Nat retired in 1987 to play duplicate bridge and write books. He is the author,

editor, or compiler of over twenty books, including one collection of poems. Seven of his books have been selections of the History Book Club or the Book of the Month Club. Among Nat’s books is the “Military Memoirs

of Brig. Gen. William P. Carlin” (co-edited with our own Rob Girardi) and the standard biographies of Generals William J. Hardee and Gideon Pillow. His latest book is “Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A.: Forrest’s Fighting Lieutenant” (U. of TN Press, 2004). Dr. Hughes is currently completing a study of Yale University’s Confederates.



Vicksburg Tour a Great Success!

BY BOB MILLER

In April and May 2005, once again Illinois troops “invaded” Vicksburg MS—but this time without death, destruction or disease!! The Chicago Round Table’s 55th annual battlefield tour, the Vicksburg Campaign, was again a resounding success! As befitting a return to the place where Ed Bearss’ renown was born, as well as our own 65th anniversary year, this was the largest tour in CWRT history—with 140 people on 3 busses participating! With Ed Bearss, Terry Winschel and Parker Hills as tour guides, all were in agreement that no Civil War tour in America ever had better, more well-informed, experienced guides!

The 2005 tour focused on the Vicksburg Campaign—not the actual siege or battle for the city itself, so our three busses put a lot of mileage on traveling Grant’s historic campaign routes. We returned to such familiar and previously visited places as Grand Gulf Military Park, the USS Cairo, Chickasaw Bayou, the ruins at Windsor, Big Black River and the Vicksburg National Military Park. The large group tromped faithfully behind Ed, Terry and Parker listening to their excellent commentary at each of these historic battle sites and places, following the Union or Confederate troop progress on

Terry’s well-coordinated military maps. (Did anyone else marvel at Terry’s ability to hold those maps up forever for Ed’s commentary!?)

But also mixed into the tour were fascinating visits to new places the Chicago Round Table had not visited before, including a historic reenactment of traveling Grant’s Louisiana route to get below the city, Winter Quarters plantation, the Dillon Plantation (recently acquired by the VNMP) and the battlefield (and historic courthouse) at Raymond. After traveling through the Louisiana cotton fields (historic site of some of the South’s richest plantations), more than one tour member was overheard to say that now, as never before, they finally understood and appreciated the logic and wisdom of Grant’s Vicksburg Campaign strategy.

There were, as always, some unforgettable moments. Meeting 5th generation Sid Champion himself atop Champion Hill, listening to he and Ed discuss family and local history on an overcast Saturday afternoon, will remain a lasting memory to all present. Others will never forget the Friday afternoon visit to historically recreated Bethel Church, gazing into the historic, unchanged, deeply-sunken road Union troops used in a rare night-time march moving inland to

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9670 N. Dee #205

Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

Phone: 630-460-1865

www.thecwrt.org

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org.

Port Gibson from their river crossing. Who can forget the Friday night presentation by Terry Winschel to Margie (Ed) Bearss of the first United States flag to fly over the USS Cairo since its sinking in 1862? Some recall Judge Bobbie DeLouder describing his courtroom in the historic Raymond courthouse. Others may recall the Confederate Purple Heart going to recently returned Iraq War veteran Robert Rudich (whose frantic race for a departing bus at Grand Gulf earned the honor).

All these moving memories are what truly make our Chicago Round Table tour unique and historic. For those present, the Vicksburg Campaign of 2005 was an eternally memorable occasion!



MAY MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On May 13th Daniel D. Nettlesheim gave an informative and interesting perspective on "Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General" in front of 85 members and guests at the 641st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nettlesheim has been a professor of history at West Point among several other prestigious positions. In his presentation he used the life and career of General Hancock to examine the role of a subordinate commander.

During 1862-63, the Army of the Potomac had mostly mediocre corps and division commanders, but Winfield Scott Hancock was the exception. After serving in the Mexican War, Hancock, a career army officer, served in brigade, division, and corps command. At the Battle of Gettysburg he led the Union forces at the end of the first day. During "Pickett's Charge" Hancock was wounded. He was instrumental in Union success during the Overland Campaign of 1864. His Gettysburg wounds forced him into early retirement in 1864.

Exemplary in every aspect of command, Hancock set a tremendous example for his soldiers. "He was in the middle of every drill," explained Nettlesheim. "He stood up for his men and did what he thought was right. He also had the ability to be human and could laugh at himself." An example of his decision-making, regardless of criticism, occurred during Pickett's Charge. In the artillery bombardment Hancock overruled the order of the artillery chief for the Union artillery to conserve its ammunition, because he believed artillery counter-fire, however inefficient, would encourage his infantry.

Hancock repeatedly illustrated his attitude toward professional soldier's behavior. Before the Battle of Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862) he turned down the use of a house to sleep in, in order to sleep on the ground with his men. Prior to Pickett's Charge,

Hancock slowly and deliberately rose up and down his lines in order to boost his men's morale. At one point, he emphatically stated, "There are times when the life of a corps commander does not matter!" Explained Nettlesheim, "Hancock shared adversity with his soldiers by setting a good example."

Using the imagery of symbols, Hancock enhanced his reputation. He often praised his men, and his men responded. Soldiers under Hancock's command had pride in the feeling that "we're all in this war together." Believing a commander must look, as well as be, in control, he kept a supply of ten starched shirts so that he would always appear well dressed. His men nicknamed their tall, immaculate commander "Hancock the Superb". Another characteristic of Hancock was his instinct to preserve and protect his artillery. In the retreat after Fredericksburg Hancock refused to pull his last three regiments away until his last cannon was saved.

The role of a subordinate general is difficult. He must obey the orders and battle plans of the overall commander. He must offer constructive criticism if asked, walking the fine line between loyalty and honest disagreement. Prior to the Battle of Fredericksburg, Hancock and other Union generals voiced their apprehensions about the attack on Marye's Heights. Stung by the implied criticism, General Ambrose Burnside informed Hancock and others that they would be disloyal if they disagreed with him. Hancock replied, "I did not realize that the order to attack was already planned." He loyally swallowed his apprehensions, and pressed his attack with such verve that his division sustained 40% casualties. Nettlesheim contrasted this with the actions of General Dan Sickles at Gettysburg, where Sickles, not liking the line army commander George Meade laid out for him, disobeyed orders and advanced, destroying the integrity of the Union line. In the ensuing rout of Sickles' corps, Hancock took six spe-

cific actions to restore the Union line. Nettlesheim concluded, "As a subordinate general, General Hancock was indeed superb!"

BEARSS AWARD GOES TO FRANKLIN CAMPAIGN-CWPT AND FRIENDS OF RAYMOND

by Mary Abroe

During the recent CWRT Vicksburg tour, Ed Bearss announced his choices as co-winners of the fourth annual Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award: the Franklin (Tennessee) campaign of the Civil War Preservation Trust and the Friends of Raymond (Mississippi). This year our contributors generosity, a sign of abiding respect and affection for Ed, has provided us with funding for these two awardees. Each receives \$1,000 from the Battlefield Preservation Fund of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago in recognition of this honor—along with the gratitude of Round Table members and preservationists everywhere for jobs well done.

Thanks to the following individuals who contributed to the Bearss Award fund this year:

Mary and Mike Abroe, Chuck Adams, Jerry Allen, Don Anderson, Anonymous, Gary Augustine, Marilyn and Chuck Bednar, Marcy Bloom, Ruth and Roger Bohn, Kurt Carlson, Robert Carlson, Terry Carr, Lorraine Colwell, James Cunningham, Brooks Davis, Marybeth Foley, Sherry and Sid Gamertsfelder, Larry Gibbs, Robert Girardi, Robert Haraldson, Cindy Intravartolo, Nancy Jacobs, JoEllen and Jerome Kowalski, Arthur Kunis, Eleanor Leichenko, Janet Linhart, Richard McAdoo, Duff McGovern, Michael Marienthal, Mark Matranga, Bob Miller, Jim Nethery, Fred Parker, Lyn and Gale Pewitt, Jan Rasmussen, Ronald Reif, Roger Rudich, Marvin Sanderman, Jerry Schur, Bing Seibold, Steve Stewart, Steve Thompson, Donna Tuohy, Muriel Underwood, Cary Van Ness, Richard Walker, Daniel Weinberg, and Jackie Wilson.

GRAPESHOT



On June 25th the DuPage County Historical Museum is sponsoring a visit to Milwaukee that includes a tour of the Civil War Old Soldiers' Home and the historic Pabst family mansion. The cost is \$50 for members, \$60 for non-members. For more information, call Joyce Matuszewich at (630) 682-7343

CWRT past president Bruce Allardice will be speaking to the Evanston Historical Society August 17th on "The Election of 1864". The meeting is at the Dawes House, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, at 7 p.m., and is open to the public. Contact the EHS at (847) 475-3410 for more details, or visit their website at www.evanstonhistorical.org.

Sylvia Castle at the Abraham Lincoln Book Store wishes to remind us that the 10% discount for CWRT members at the book shop covers "In print" books ONLY. The other merchandise is not eligible for a 10% discount.

Tom Cartright of the Carter House Museum in Franklin will be speaking on "Humor in the Civil War" at the Salt Creek CWRT annual banquet Friday, June 3rd at the Lisle Hilton. For more details, phone Bill Hupp at (630) 790-3823.

The Northern Illinois CWRT is having Dr. Jack Welch speak at its 22nd annual banquet meeting this June 17th at Concorde Banquets in Lake Zurich. Dr. Welch's topic is "The Court Martial of Union Surgeons". Cost is \$30 per person. For more details, contact Tom Postema at (847) 303-5030.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@aol.com or (847) 375-8305.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by Ralph G. Newman and other members. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum raise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.

DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION DINNER

Illinois State Historian (and CWRT member) Tom Schwartz will address the annual dinner of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 11 at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. His topic is "Lincoln and Douglas in the Race of Politics and Life." Ceremonies at the Douglas Tomb, 636 E. 35th St., will begin at 5 p.m, followed by cocktails and dinner at the Holiday Inn at 6:30. Cost of the dinner is \$35 per person. For further information and reservations, contact David Richert at 773-761-6937, drichtert@earthlink.net.

VICKSBURG TOUR PHOTOS

Hal Ardell, who takes those great photos of our meetings, has put together a photo gallery of the recent Vicksburg battlefield tour that anyone can access online at <http://www.kodakgallery.com>. Registration is required. Contact Hal at hal229@ameritech.net for registration and access details. Member George Evans has another tour photo gallery available for viewing at <http://George.smugmug.com/gallery/520694/1/21447234>.

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*.

June 10: Nat Hughes, "Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A."

Sept. 9: Nevins-Freeman Award
Address: Richard McMurry, subject TBA

Oct. 14: Celebration of 65th Anniversary of Chicago CWRT: Ed Bearss, "The Most Forgotten, Misunderstood Least Appreciated Civil War Battles and Soldiers"

Nov. 11: (Veteran's Day): Edward Bonekemper III, "A Victor Not a Butcher—U.S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius"

Dec. 9: Stephen Fratt, "Civil War Tactics and Technology"

NEW MEMBERS

Lincoln Memorial Shrine
125 W. Vine St
Redlands, CA 92373

DUES REMINDER

Be early and save a few bucks! In order to take advantage of the \$5 reduction in dues for Regular and Family members, dues must be in by **Sept. 1, 2005**. The dues are \$40 (\$35 for email newsletter) for Regular members if paid by Sept. 1st, and \$45/40 if paid after that date. A Family membership (two members) has dues of \$55 (\$50 for email newsletter) if paid by Sept. 1, and \$60/55 thereafter. If you have any questions, phone Janet Linhart, our registrar, at (630) 752-1330, or email her at janetlinhart@att.net.