

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table July 2020 Newsletter



To Inform and Educate Since 1993 Contents

President's Messages

Michael Acosta presents; Fort Fisher, NC

Members come to the aid of your Round Table **page 2**

Announcements

Thursday 9, July It's a Zoom Meeting

Michael Acosta, "The Assaults on Fort Fisher, NC"..... **page 3**

TVCWRT Field Trip Scheduled: October 31, 2020, The Tullahoma Campaign of 1863 **page 4**

Tullahoma Campaign Studied for Strategic Success by Ed Kenedy..... **page 5**

Last Person Receiving a Civil War Era Pension Dies..... **page 5**

TVCWRT Features

TVCWRT Civil War Tutorial **page 7**

The Short War Scenario Died on the Battlefield in July 1861: *(the editor)* .. **page 7**

TVCWRT Little Round Table (Discussion and Schedule – 2020) The Vicksburg Campaign **page 11**



President's Message

Join us July 9: We're Zooming with Michael Acosta

Michael Acosta will present "The Fall of 'Southern Gibraltar,'" the story of Ft. Fisher, South Carolina on Thursday, July 9, 6:30 p.m., online via Zoom. Here's how to listen:

You will receive an e-mail that day that contains a link to the presentation. If you have used Zoom software previously, simply click the link and you will be directed to our program.

If you missed the Zoom e-mail last month, it may be because the message went to an e-mail address that is not often checked. This happens in the case of spouses who have only one address on file but which might not be the one that they frequently monitor. To update your account, go to our web page at tvcwrt.org and fill out the "Contact Us" form. Please allow several days for your account to be corrected.

We will e-mail Zoom "how-to" instructions to everyone a few days ahead.

If you have an older computer or a slow or sporadic Internet connection, you can listen to the audio portion on your cell phone. Simply call the Central Time zone phone number listed at the bottom of the e-mail a few minutes before 6:30 and you will be able to hear the presentation.

While meeting online isn't as satisfying as gathering for a fun social evening, it is an easy and safe alternative that enables us to continue to enjoy our monthly dose of Civil War history. If you haven't tried Zoom, please do so. Several members have remarked that they can hear better while enjoying the convenience of listening to a first-rate speaker from the comfort of their own easy chairs. In light of the governor's renewed "safer at home" order, we thank you for embracing this technology as a way for us to keep going.

Now is the Time for All Good Men and Women to Come to the Aid of the Round Table!

Abraham Lincoln said, "The best way to predict your future is to create it." Today, I am calling on all members of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table to pitch in to create our future.

This is not a polite suggestion to get involved, rather, this is an urgent call to keep our group operating at its current tempo.

Situational changes wrought by Covid 19 and the simple passing of time have had an unexpected and significant impact on our board. By December, we will need a new president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, programs chair, and technology officer. In other words, a whole new set of the people who are critical to making the RT work. Unless members step in to take these vital roles, the Round Table will become an informal club similar to the Little Round Table, or may disappear entirely.

With 26 years of success behind us, it is time for a new generation of leaders to step forward to ensure the organization, the fellowship we all enjoy, and the programs we relish, continue. We need people with administrative, organizational, business, and technical skills who love history and have a desire to ensure that talking about it and teaching it doesn't become a relic of the past.

Being a board member is a serious commitment and it does require a fair amount of time. Rather than just filling a seat as can happen in some groups, ours is a working board. You will make a difference and see the results of your efforts every month. What you get in exchange is the satisfaction of helping sculpt and direct the organization and the opportunity to enjoy deeper friendships with a talented group of the smart, accomplished people who will be your fellow board members.

Don't let 2020 be the end of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table's story. Please let us hear from you NOW. For more information contact me at april.harris@uah.edu or our secretary, Emil Posey at emilposey@ardmore.net.

Thanks for giving this call to action your serious consideration.

April L. Harris
President

*The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net*



Announcements: **It is a ZOOM Presentation!**



**TVCWRT Member Michael
Acosta
Major USMC (Ret)**

Thursday, July 9th, 2019 Michael Acosta will speak on the fall of Fort Fisher, NC. The purpose of this discussion is to introduce a critical battle in the Civil War and bring it's background and results into our local discussion. The discussion will center on the strategic importance of the area, the lessons learned by the military and how some of those concepts shaped modern day doctrine regarding combined arms fire, amphibious assault tenets, and using terrain as an effective means of defense. This is the second of two lectures surrounding amphibious operations in the Civil War, with the other being the Battle of New Bern, NC, that was covered in November of 2019.

The robust construction of Fort Fisher was unparalleled in terms of engineering, fortification, and sheer magnitude when compared to any coastal fort or battery in the Western Hemisphere. Where did this idea come from and who was responsible for its bold strength? Why was this one fort critical to the Confederacy and why couldn't it simply be bypassed like some of the coastal installations in South Carolina? There were two attempts to take Fort Fisher, with the first one being a miserable failure; what happened, and what was changed to affect a second and successful attempt? We will look at the leadership on both sides, coordination between the Army and the Navy, and discuss the friction that was part of that coordination. We'll also look at a couple of "political Generals" and examine if their lack of experience was really a shortfall to success. Lastly, we'll cover the results of preservation (or lack thereof), both in terms of physical land conservation and community advocacy.

Michael is a member of the Round Table and a native of Texas. He is a retired US Marine Corps aviator and officer who moved to Huntsville in the summer of 2017. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1998 with a Bachelors in History. He also holds a Masters in Management and an MBA from the University of Maryland. He is a graduate of the USMC Expeditionary Warfare School, Command and Staff College, and the Joint Combined Warfare School. He and his wife, of over 21 years, Janet Murphy, of Salisbury, MD have three children. He is an avid Revolutionary War and Civil War buff and thoroughly enjoys dragging his family to various battlefield and historical sites around the country. Michael is a local Naval Academy Representative and actively supports his children's Scout units.

How to Join A Zoom Presentation

1. Close to the date, you will receive an e-mail invitation to join the meeting.
2. A few minutes before meeting time, locate that e-mail and click on the "join meeting" link in the message. (Don't do it far in advance or you will confuse the computer!)
3. If this is your first Zoom, you will be prompted to download the software. Click on the link it displays and it will install itself. If you have Zoomed before, the program will simply open. A box may pop up that asks "Do you want to allow this page to open "zoom us"? Click the "allow" button.
4. If you are asked to enter a meeting code, the number can be found in the e-mail invitation. Simply type it in to the box on your screen (this isn't always required).

*The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net*



5. That's it! The meeting will start automatically.
6. We are using a webinar format so while you will see the presenter, he will not be able to see you nor will your image appear on other participants' screens.

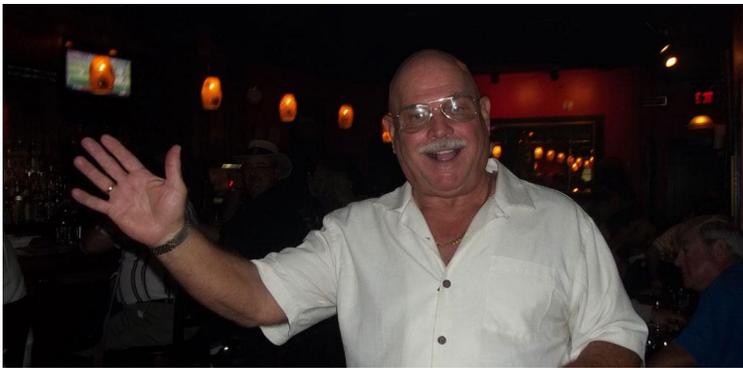
You can listen on your phone without a computer by calling one of the phone numbers listed on the Zoom e-mail invitation. You will be able to hear the presentation, but won't be able to see images.

Tips:

It may be easier for you to hear if you plug a set of earphones into your computer. The same applies if you are listening on your smartphone.

To ask a question, type it in the message box that shows on your screen. It can only be seen by the behind-the-scenes person monitoring Zoom who will feed it to the presenter. The speaker will answer verbally.

To leave the meeting, simply click the "leave meeting" button in the lower right-hand corner of your screen or hang up your phone.



Nick expresses his thanks and that of his staff for the support that friends and customers have shown over the last couple of months. Nick's is open for business with dining room service. Check out the website for details and reservations.

www.nicksristorante.com

Say Hello to Nick, of Nick's Ristorante. It remains the #1 steakhouse in Northeast Alabama and has the Best Chef in the Valley as voted in the Planet.



annual field trip. Tentative plans are to depart Huntsville at 7 a.m. on October 31st, travel by bus to Murfreesboro and pick up Greg Biggs, expert guide and friend of the RT. He will lead us to the various key sites of the Tullahoma Campaign of 1863. The route will primarily be along the back roads actually used but will parallel I-24, ending at Sewanee (university of the South). We'll then return to Murfreesboro, drop Greg off by 4, and return home. Cost is \$80 per person (goes up to \$100 for reservations submitted after October 9). This covers speaker, bus, water bottles on bus, and tip for Greg; lunch is on your own. Coordinator John Scales will provide further details as they develop. Questions or early interest? Call John at 256-337-1444.

Greg Biggs is a Civil War flags historian and has consulted with a number of museums and authors and has presented flags programs to the Museum of the Confederacy and the National Civil War Museum among others. He has also assisted the Civil War Trust in securing flags for their web site. Greg has lectured across the country on Civil War topics primarily on flags and the Western Theater as well as the Revolutionary War. Greg leads tours for Civil War groups,



Gregg Biggs, our guide and friend of the Round Table.

*The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net*



individuals, and U.S. Army Staff Rides of the Fort Donelson Campaign, the Tullahoma Campaign, the Atlanta Campaign and where The River Campaigns Began: Cairo, IL to Columbus/Belmont, KY. He is the president of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable and an officer of the Nashville CWRT.

Tullahoma campaign studied for strategic success *By Ed Kennedy*

For those members that have not seen Ed's article that appeared in the Redstone Rocket introducing the field trip this fall; see below; the editor

Studied for decades by the military, the Tullahoma campaign is considered one of the most classic operational-level maneuvers during the War Between the States.

Going from June 24 through July 3, 1863, the campaign was one of three major campaigns being conducted by the Army in the summer of 1863. Often overshadowed by the Vicksburg and the Gettysburg campaigns, the Tullahoma campaign is characterized by masterful planning and operational maneuver by Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans who commanded the Union Army of the Cumberland. Although the Tullahoma campaign was a tremendous success, it was the precursor to the Union Army's disaster in September at Chickamauga, Georgia, when it suffered a stunning defeat.

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table conducts a battle or campaign field trip every October to study regional military actions. These field trips are open to the public and led by professional historians. Unlike military staff rides, the field trips are strictly tours and require no extensive preparation by the participants although it is encouraged. This year's field trip is the Tullahoma campaign.

The Tullahoma field trip will occur on Saturday, Oct. 31, led by historian Greg Biggs of Clarksville, Tennessee. The TVCWRT field trip will travel the major routes of the armies from Murfreesboro and end in Suwanee, Tennessee, visiting all the major sites of the campaign. Visitors are always welcome on the second Thursday of the month meetings and to attend the field trip (with priority given to TVCWRT members). For more information, visit www.tvcwrt.org.

Editor's note: Retired Lt. Col. Ed Kennedy is the former senior officer on the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, staff ride team. He has led numerous staff rides and tours to Korea, Germany, the Sioux Wars sites (Little Bighorn battle), the Tullahoma campaign, the Vicksburg campaign and numerous other War Between the States sites. He is currently on the board of the TVCWRT.

Last Person to Receive a Civil War-Era Pension Dies

Michael M. Phillips submitted by Jeff Ewing

My mother was on the staff of the 1938 reunion and my uncle was the director! She shared fond memories of the old soldiers.

Irene Triplett, the last person receiving a pension from the U.S. Civil War, has died at the age of 90. Ms. Triplett's father, Mose Triplett, started fighting in the war for the Confederacy, but defected to the North in 1863. That decision earned his daughter Irene, the product of a late-in-life marriage to a woman almost 50 years his junior, a pension of \$73.13 a month from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

*The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net*



Ms. Triplett, who suffered from mental disabilities, qualified for federal financial support as a helpless ((CQ)) adult child of a veteran. She died Sunday from complications following surgery for injuries from a fall, according to the Wilkesboro, N.C., nursing home where she lived.

The Triplett family was the subject of a Page One article in The Wall Street Journal in 2014. Pvt. Triplett enlisted in the 53rd North Carolina Infantry Regiment in May 1862, then transferred to the 26th North Carolina Infantry Regiment early the following year, according to Confederate records. He fell ill as his regiment marched north toward Gettysburg and remained behind in a Virginia military hospital.

He ran away from the hospital, records show, while his unit suffered devastating losses at Gettysburg. Of the 800 men in the 26th North Carolina, 734 were killed, wounded or captured in the battle Pvt. Triplett missed.

Now a deserter, he made his way to Tennessee and, in 1864, enlisted in a Union regiment, the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry. Known as Kirk's Raiders, the 3rd North Carolina carried out a campaign of sabotage against Confederate targets in eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The unit was named after Tennessee-born commander Col. George Washington Kirk.

After the war, former Kirk's Raiders were despised in areas of the former Confederacy. Pvt. Triplett, by then a civilian with a reputation for orneriness, kept pet rattlesnakes at his home near Elk Creek, N.C. He often sat on his front porch with a pistol on his lap.

A lot of people were afraid of him," his grandson, Charlie Triplett, told The Wall Street Journal. Pvt. Triplett married Elida Hall in 1924. She was 34 when Irene was born in 1930; he was 83. Such an age difference wasn't rare, especially later, during the Great Depression, when Civil War veterans found themselves with both a pension and a growing need for care.

Both mother and daughter suffered from mental disabilities. Irene Triplett recalled a tough childhood in the North Carolina mountains, beaten by teachers at school and parents at home. "I didn't care for neither one of them, to tell you the truth about it," she told The Wall Street Journal in 2014. "I wanted to get away from both of them. I wanted to get me a house and crawl in it all by myself."

Pvt. Triplett died in 1938 at age 92, days after attending a reunion of Civil War veterans, attended by President Franklin Roosevelt, on the fields of Gettysburg. Ms. Triplett and her mother lived for years in the Wilkes County poorhouse. Irene later moved through a number of care homes, her costs covered by Medicaid and her tiny VA pension.

She saw little of her relatives. But a pair of Civil War buffs visited and sent her money to spend on Dr Pepper and chewing tobacco, a habit she picked up in the first grade.

"She's a part of history," said Dennis St. Andrew, one of Irene's supporters and a past commander of the North Carolina Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. "You're talking to somebody whose father was in the Civil War, which is mind-bending."

The number of what the group calls true sons and daughters of Civil War soldiers is fast heading toward zero. Mr. St. Andrew expects that as word spreads of Ms. Triplett's death, the Sons of Union Veterans will, as is customary, declare a 30-day mourning period. Members will wear a black band on their membership badges.

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/last-person-to-receive-a-civil-war-era-pension-dies/ar-BB14WxEa?ocid=msedgntp>

*The TVCWRT is a 501c3 organization that provides a forum for non-partisan study, education, and discussion regarding the American Civil War. It supports the preservation of Civil War battlefields and landmarks. It meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm, the Elks lodge on Franklin Street Huntsville, Al. TVCWRT will **never** sell your email address. Address: P.O. Box 2872 Huntsville, Alabama 35804. Questions/Comments: Newsletter Editor; arleymccormick@comcast.net*



TVCWRT Features

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Civil War Tutorial: On the Web

We will continue with the Tutorial next month. The Editor

The Short War Scenario died on the battlefield in July 1861;

Both the North and the South, almost universally, believed the war would be short once the Armies met on the battlefield. The battlefield results and manpower losses at Manassas (Bull Run) altered conventional thinking.

Political:

The month began with the U.S. War Department ordering Kentucky and Tennessee to recruit soldiers for the union although Kentucky voted to remain neutral and Tennessee voted on May 6, 1861, to secede from the Union. On the same day Maj. Gen. Banks, USA, arrested the Baltimore Police Commissioners and pitched a proclamation supporting the Union to the good citizens of Baltimore yet later in the month the Baltimore Police Commissioners, from their prison, responded with a redress of Congress.

The legislature of the provisional state of West Virginia convened at Wheeling under the auspices of the Federal Government. West Virginia did not become a state until 1863 but for clarity the events affecting the land mass defined as West Virginia will be referred to as West Virginia for the remainder of the war.

President Abraham Lincoln used the 4th of July to issue a request for an additional 400,000 volunteers and the US House of Representatives resolved that it is not the duty of Union soldiers to capture and return fugitive slaves.

After Bull Run the Pro-South Governor of Missouri, Claiborne Jackson, continued to declare his administration as the only legal ruling body of Missouri, even though the Missouri State Convention voted to abstain from leaving the Union. The Pro-Union supporters responded later in the month by convening a state convention where delegates voted 56-25 to elect a new governor (Pro-Union). They elected Hamilton R. Gramble and the following day replaced Claiborne Jackson.

Brig. Gen. John Pope, USA, issued General Order Number 3 and formulated a plan to suppress the lawless elements and permanently pacify North Missouri.

Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, USA, assumed command of the Western Dept. at St. Louis, MO and soon generated controversy over his policies and administration of the military district.

United States Army General Officer Appointments

James Brewerton Ricketts, Brig. Gen.

Confederate General Officer Appointments to Full General

Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard

Samuel Jones

Jubal Anderson Early

William Henry Chase Whiting

Joseph E. Johnston



Confederate Brigadier General Appointments

Richard Haron Anderson,
Benjamin Franklin Cheatam
Daniel Smith Donelson
Richard Caswell Gatlin
Daniel Harvey Hill CSA

Gideon Johnson Pillow
Robert Augustus Toombs,
Jones Mitchell Withers,
Felix Kirk Zollicoffer

Changes in Districts and Commands:

Union Actions:

The New Mexico Territory was added to the Federal Western Department, (defined as the states of Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, and the Indian Territory). Fort McLane, located in the New Mexico Territory, was abandoned on the same day. Seven days later Fort Breckinridge was abandoned and Fort Buchanan later in the month.

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, USA, replaced Bvt. Maj. Gen. George Cadwalader, PA Troops, to command the Department of Annapolis, MD and after Maj. Gen. George McClellan's success in West Virginia he was ordered to Washington, DC to take command of the Division (later Army) of the Potomac. The appointment was decided by President Lincoln after Maj. Gen. Irwin McDowell's disastrous defeat at Manassas. Brig. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans assumed command of the Dept. of the Ohio and that included a portion of Western Virginia.

Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, USA, was assigned to command of the Dept. of Maryland then later in the month assumed command of the Dept. of Pennsylvania while Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Prentiss Banks was assigned to command the Dept. of the Shenandoah Valley replacing Maj. Gen. Robert Patterson.

Confederate Actions;

Brig. Gen. William W. Loring was assigned to command of the "Northwestern Army" (WV) and in the Trans-Mississippi Dept. Brig. Gen. William J. Hardee assumed command of the Confederate forces in Northwestern Arkansas.

Robert Mercer Taliaferro Hunter replaced Robert Toombs as the Confederate Secretary of State after he resigned his military appointment while Brig. Gen. Felix Kirk Zollicoffer, was assigned to command in East Tennessee and on the last day of the month the Army of the State of Tennessee was transferred to the Confederate States of America.

Brig. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley was ordered to Texas to expel the Union Forces from the New Mexico Territory and Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk, warned Richmond authorities that "no time is to be lost in East Tennessee." He was subsequently assigned command of the Confederate Dept. No.2. KY, etal.

The Confederacy signed a peace treaty with the Creek Indian Tribe and days later a treaty with the Chickasaw and the Choctaw Indian Nations all located in Indian Territory.

On July 13, Brig. Gen. Robert Selden Garnett became the first Civil War General to die from wounds. He was setting up a skirmish line and fighting a rear-guard action at Carrick's Ford near Romney, WV. Following his death Brig. Gen. Henry Rootes Jackson was ordered to command the Confederate forces in West Virginia.

The military forces and stores, etc. of Arkansas were transferred to the Confederate States.



Military Activity:

California: Skirmishing with Indians on the south fork of the Eel River continued.

Missouri: The Confederate forces under Missouri Governor Claiborne Jackson forced a Union retreat toward Carthage led by Brig. Gen. Franz Sigel, USA. Sigel began a lackluster military career with the engagement near Carthage at Dry Fork Creek and Brier Fork in southwest Missouri then Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch, CSA captured and paroled 80 Union soldiers belonging to Sigel's command at Neosho.

Skirmishing continued at Farmington near St. Louis and the Confederate camp at Florida was attacked and dispersed by loyal Union State troops while skirmishes continued for two days near Monroe Station with Col. Robert F. Smith, USA, 16th IL, Inf. Skirmishes occurred a Mexico, Wentsville, or Millsville, Fulton, Parkersville, and Harrisonville. Skirmishing occurred at Martinsburg as a Federal expedition from Springfield to Forsyth began on the 20th with a skirmish at Etna and the occupation of Forsyth by Brig. Gen. Thomas Sweeny, USA. Action continued at Blue Mills, Dug Springs, Harrisonville, and at McCulla's Store.

New Madrid, on the Mississippi River in southeastern Missouri was occupied by the Confederates.

New Mexico Territory: Fort Fillmore was abandoned by Union Maj. Isaac Lynde, 7th US Infantry, even though he had a 2 to 1 numerical advantage over Capt. John Baylor, CSA. Maj. Lynde skirmished at Mesilla and held off the Confederates but eventually surrendered at San Augustine Springs to Capt. John R. Baylor, CSA.

West Virginia: West Virginia was the ground where competing belligerents were small and operations difficult yet decisive as combatants tested their tactics and resolve with the Union winning the area.

The Federal Army initiated operations in the Shenandoah Valley on July 2nd when Brig. Gen. Robert Patterson's command crossed the Potomac River at Williamsport, MD, in an attempt to prevent Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's CSA, forces from reinforcing the Confederate forces at Manassas, VA, led by Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, CSA.

Initial engagements occurred at Falling Waters, or Hok's Run, or Haynesville, or Martinsburg, MD, in the area of Western Virginia and resulted in a Union victory. Union forces occupied Martinsburg causing the Confederate forces of Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's, CSA, to retreat. That contact resulted in a skirmish at Harper's Ferry.

The campaign in West Virginia continued with four days of skirmishes and engagements at Middle (Creek) Fork Ridge, or Buckhannon, Belington, Laurel Hill, Glenville, Rich Mountain, and Beverly. The engagement at Rich Mountain and Laurel Hill between Brig. Gen. Robert S. Garnett, CSA, and Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, USA, under Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan command, was reported as a victory when Brig. Gen. Garnett removed his force to the Cheat River Valley. Beverly was occupied by Maj. Gen. George McClellan, USA, after the Confederate retreat. Brig. Gen. Jacob Dolson Cox's, USA continued to confront Brig. Gen. Henry Alexander Wise's, CSA forces in the area surrounding the Valley of the Great Kanawha and skirmished at the Red House near Barboursville. Action at Carrick's (or Corrick's) Ford and Cheat River with Maj. Gen. George McClellan, resulted in the Confederates' virtually losing control of the provisional state of WV.



Skirmish's continued at Bowman's Place on the Cheat River and Confederate forces evacuated Harper's Ferry then skirmished near Bunker Hill north of Winchester, VA. Skirmishing continued at Barboursville and Charlestown between Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Cox, USA and Brig. Gen. Henry A. Wise, CSA. At Scary Creek, or Scarrytown Brig. Gen. Wise, CSA found himself facing Brig. Gen. Jacob D. Coe's advance and retreated up the Kanawha Valley evacuating the area around Charleston and continued to Gauley Bridge. After action at Tyler Mountain, the month ended with Brig. Gen. Cox, occupying Charleston and skirmishing at Edwards Ferry, MD.

Virginia: The month began with skirmishing near Newport News on the Curtis farm between Brig. Gen. John B. Magruder's CSA forces and Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler. Skirmishing at Great Falls near Vienna ended with Lieut. Col. John Pegram's CSA, forces surrendering to Brig. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans as skirmishing near Newport News with Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler continued.

A Federal reconnaissance from Alexandria toward Fairfax Court House by Col. Thomas A. Davies, 16th NY resulted in action near Vienna and the Confederate Army retired to the line of Bull Run and it encouraged shouting and media excitement as troops on the march shouted "Forward to Richmond!"

The Bull Run, or Manassas Campaign, began with initial skirmishing at Fairfax County Court-house, Vienna or Bunker Hill, and action continued at Blackburn's Ford, where Brig. Gen. James Longstreet's CSA, forces held against Maj. Gen. McDowell's, Federal probe, under Brig. Gen. Daniel Tyler, USA. As the action at Mitchell's Ford continued with Brig. Gen. Longstreet, Confederate forces under Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston CSA, entered the fray with troops from the Shenandoah Valley re-enforcing the troops under Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, CSA, at Bull Run, or Manassas. Fighting continued at Black River Road and New Market Bridge.

The Battle of Bull Run, or Manassas, with activity around Sudley Spring Ford, Matthews Hill, Henry House, Stone House, Robinson Home, Stone Bridge, Cub Run Bridge, etc. resulted in a resounding Federal defeat for Brig. Gen. McDowell, and a jubilant victory for the joint command of Gen's Beauregard and Johnston.

Brig. Gen. Barnard Elliott Bee, CSA was mortally wounded while leading his men during the Battle of Bull Run, VA, and died the next day. Bee is best remembered for giving Thomas Jonathan Jackson the nickname, "Stonewall".

With the retreat of the Union Army from Bull Run Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, was ordered to relieve Maj. Gen. Patterson, and command the Department of the Shenandoah, primarily because Maj. Gen. Patterson allowed Gen. Johnston, CSA to transfer his troops unopposed to Manassas from the Shenandoah Valley.

Skirmishing continued at Back River.

Navy Operations: The *CSS Sumpter* arrived at Cienfuegos, Cuba with seven captured Union vessels: *Albert Adams*, *Cuba*, *Ben Dunning*, *Lewis Kitham*, *Machia*, *Niad*, and the *West Wind*, while the Confederate privateer, *Jefferson Davis*, captured the Union vessels, *Enchantress* and *John Webb*, off Cape Hatteras, NC. The *Jefferson Davis* follows up by capturing the Union vessel, *S. J. Waring*, in the Atlantic off the New Jersey coast. But Confederate sea power was unable to deter the *USS Daylight* from establishing the initial blockade of the Confederate port of Wilmington, N.C.



Reference: *The Chronological Tracing of the American Civil War per the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*, by Ronald A. Mosocco, 1995, James River Publications, Williamsburg, Virginia.

TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule - 2020 **The Vicksburg Campaign (Standby for further guidance!)**

Eight LRT regulars met last Thursday, June 25, at the Veteran's Museum. Masks were worn by all. It was decided to recast the schedule and kick things off at 6:30 on Thursday, July 23, with the introductory session on the Vicksburg Campaign. Several locations were discussed and at this point we expect to resume meetings at the Elks. J.R. Ewing



LRT members J.R. Ewing, Daryl Carpenter, Bob Hennessee, John Allen, and Fred Frost practice social distancing.



FLRT members Emil Posey, Arley McCormick, and Larry Bayer, practice social distancing.

The US Army Center of Military History lists the Vicksburg Campaign as 29 March - 4 July 1863. The Center lists operations against Vicksburg in December of 1862 through January 1863 as separate from the Campaign.

This month we will address the operations of December 1862 and January 1863. The principle combatant Generals are LTG John G. Pemberton (CSA), MG Earl Van Dorn (CSA) and MG William T. Sherman (USA). In 1862, major operations began in the Western Theater with the principal objective; gain control of the Mississippi. To do that it was necessary to reduce Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Admiral Farragut made an attempt as early as May 1862. Ulysses S. Grant was in charge by October 1862 and began with 45,000 men organized into three corps. General Grant modified his plans as events on the ground dictated. After the events of December 1862 and January 1863 he received two more corps', bringing his total strength to 75,000.

Grant's plan for the Vicksburg Campaign in 1863 included XV Army Corps under MG William T. Sherman demonstrating north of Vicksburg late in March, and another two corps', the XIII Army Corps under MG John A. McClernand and the XVII Army Corps under James B. McPherson, making a wide swing southward on the west side of the Mississippi River and then back to the river at Bruinsburg, about 30 miles below Vicksburg. Sherman's corps followed the same route, joining Grant early in May. Flag Officer David D. Porter sailed his river fleet down the Mississippi River on 16-17 April, survived a heavy bombardment as he passed Vicksburg and ferried Grant's troops across the river on 30 April. They were joined by the IX Corps, commanded by MG John G. Parke. MG Steven A. Hurlbut's XVI Corps was an enabler holding the line from Memphis to Corinth and resourcing faints to focus LTG Pemberton (CSA) on Northern Mississippi rather than events in the south. MG Hurlbut was replaced by MG Cadwallader C. Washburn later in the campaign.



Vicksburg was defended by 30,000 Confederates under LTG John G. Pemberton. Other Confederate forces under MG Joseph E. Johnston were concentrated in the vicinity of Jackson, MS, 40 miles east of Vicksburg. Grant's plan was to interpose his army between Pemberton and Johnston and fend off Johnston while taking Vicksburg. Grant fought his way northeastward taking Raymond on 12 May, driving Confederate forces out of Jackson on 14 May. While Sherman's corps contained Johnston, Grant advanced on Vicksburg, winning engagements at Champion's Hill (16 May) and Black River Bridge (17 May), and driving Pemberton's forces into the city. Assaults on 18 and 22 May failed to breach Vicksburg's defenses. The Federals thereupon settled down to a siege, which ended with Pemberton's surrender on 4 July 1863. Pemberton's 29,396 officers and enlisted men were granted parole under the terms of the surrender. Federal losses during the campaign were about 3,500; Confederate losses were more than 8,000 killed, wounded, and missing.

While Grant was laying siege to Vicksburg, a 15,000-man force under MG Nathaniel P. Banks (who had replaced MG Benjamin F. Butler) moved north from New Orleans and attacked Port Hudson, which fell on 8 July 1863. Thusly, the Mississippi River came under Union control and the Confederacy was cut in two.

On July 23, pandemic permitting, the Little Round Table will launch our study of the Vicksburg Campaign beginning with General Van Dorn's successful raid on Holly Springs and MG Sherman's defeat at Chickasaw Bayou, north of Vicksburg, in December 1862. We end the night with the Confederate defeat at Arkansas Post in early January 1863. The discussion will be led by Arley McCormick.

Through the course of our study there are questions regarding the campaign that beg to be addressed and consideration regarding facts, e.g. depending what author you read, the number of combatants may differ. Several things may impact the number of combatants on the field. It may not be universally understood, but nevertheless noteworthy, that official sources estimate up to 25% of the armies were incapacitated because of disease. Plus, nearly all numbers related to the strength of units are rounded to 000s. The present for duty strength is seldom specified, but it is understood that troop strength is calculated almost daily, and those counts are not necessarily recorded when in contact with the enemy.

Questions to Ponder:

- Was Vicksburg a political objective or a military objective?
- What risk did Vicksburg present to the Union?
- What would be the impact if Vicksburg were lost to Confederacy?
- What would be the impact if Vicksburg remained an active Confederate fort?
- Was there a better choice to Command Vicksburg than LTG John Clifford Pemberton?
- What was the scope of LTG Pemberton's responsibility and how well was he supported?
- How well did LTG Pemberton do in organizing and defending Vicksburg?
- What was General Joseph E. Johnston's role and how well did he play it?
- What impacted the defense and the Confederacy's support of Vicksburg?
- Was Vicksburg abandoned by the Confederacy?
- In its entirety Grant employed complex maneuvers in the campaign, taking a lot of time. Why?
- What Confederate general contributed the most to the successful defense of Vicksburg?
- What Confederate General stole away and abandoned Vicksburg?



- What innovative technology was implemented during the Vicksburg Campaign that affected future wars?

July 23 – Vicksburg Campaign 1 - Holly Springs, Chickasaw Bayou, and Arkansas Post; Led by Arley McCormick

August 27 - Vicksburg Campaign 2 - Bayou and Canal Operations; Led by Fred Forst

September 24 - Vicksburg Campaign 3 - Porter Moves South – Grand Gulf - Snyder's Bluff; Led TBD

October 22 – Vicksburg Campaign 4 - Grierson's Raid; Led by Arley McCormick

December 10 – Vicksburg Campaign 5 - Port Gibson to Jackson; Led by Jeff Ewing

January 22, 2021 - Vicksburg Campaign 6 - Champion Hill and Big Black; Led by John Allen

February 26, 2021 - Vicksburg Campaign 7 - Siege Operations; Led by Emil Posey

March 26, 2021 – Armistead and Garnet - Parallel Lives; Led by Emil Posey

2020 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
 - **April Harris**
 - **Emil Posey**
- SUSTAINING MEMBERS
 - **Carol Codori**
 - **Jonathan Creekmore**
- SUPPORTING
 - **Beth Altenkirch**
 - **Terry & Keith Clevenger**
 - **Greg & Stephanie Cousins**
 - **Harry Gatzke**
 - **Alan & Dottie Markell**
 - **Kevin & Judy Rodriguez**
 - **Alan & Diana Ruzicka**
 - **John Scales**

The TVCWRT Management Team

OFFICERS (Elected)

- *April Harris, President*
- *(Vacant), Vice President*
- *Emil Posey, Secretary*
- *(Vacant) Treasurer*



BOARD MEMBERS (Appointed)

- Carol Codori, Programs Officer
- Johnathan Creekmore, Technology Officer
- Robert Hennessee, Preservation Officer
- Edwin “Ed” Kennedy, Communications Officer
- Arley McCormick, Newsletter Editor
- Kevin Rodriguez, Membership Officer
- (Vacant), Sergeant at Arms

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

- Debra Morgan

COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Appointed)

- Jeffry Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator
- Art Helms, Lead Greeter
- John Scales, Field Trip Coordinator

GRAY BEARDS

- John A. Allen, Former President and Founder of the Little Round Table
- Mark Hubbs, Former Preservation Officer and Co-founder
- Kent Wright, Former Programs Officer

STAGE CREW

- Edwin “Ed” Kennedy, Master of the Screen and General Roustabout,
- Mike Sosebee, First Master of the Sound System
- Lin Turner, Second Master of the Sound System
- Brad Tuten, Master Projectionist

