

# Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table August 2020 Newsletter



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## ***President's Message***

Dear Members:

It is obvious that the challenges of the pandemic have affected us all in many different ways. The truth is, amid the wreck of so many constants that we have known for years, there is opportunity for new growth.

While it has been frustrating to not be able to meet in person each month, the situation has pushed us to explore a more modern iteration by offering our speakers virtually, a positive that has taught us new skills and that has allowed people who can't attend live meetings for a variety of reasons, to enjoy our excellent programs. Now members can literally take the Tennessee Valley Civil War Roundtable programs with them wherever they can access an Internet connection.

Our round table is financially strong and as you know, we were enjoying robust participation prior to the shut-down. I urge you to stick with the group during the coming months by watching the Zoom broadcasts and participating in person when possible.

Covid has put me on a new path and has provided opportunity that I could not have imagined a year ago. Because I am responsible for planning and staging major events for UAH, Covid has mothballed my job. With no conferences, meetings, special events, or ceremonies in sight, likely for the entire academic year, this is a good opportunity for me to begin the next chapter of my life. I will retire from UAH in a few weeks, and I am relocating out-of-state to begin my "what's next." I am therefore obliged to resign as the TVCWRT president.

Vice President Ed Kennedy will take over as president effective August 13. He has been an integral and enthusiastic board member and I am certain his leadership skills will guide our group to a good future. Please give him your support by participating, whether it is on a Zoom meeting, in person, or by volunteering to lend a hand.

I will continue to serve the board as an advisor, coming full circle in my round table involvement with a role that takes me back to the job that the late David Lady recruited me to do several years ago.

Best wishes for continued growth and success. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the TVCWRT. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

April L. Harris  
President

## **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](mailto:april.harris@uah.edu) or our secretary, Emil Posey at [emilposey@ardmore.net](mailto:emilposey@ardmore.net).

Thanks for giving this call to action your serious consideration.

*April L. Harris*  
*President*

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



**Lieutenant Colonel Ed Kennedy, USA (Ret).**

Thursday, August 13, Ed Kennedy, TVCWRT Vice President, will address the final chapter of the H.L. Hunley. In 1995, famous explorer, Clive Cussler, found the very first American submarine that conducted a successful attack on a naval vessel during war. The H.L. Hunley's success would not be replicated until WWI. The Hunley sank at about the time of the attack for reasons not definitely know. It is now speculated that the shock wave from the explosion damaged the sub's structural integrity and injured the crew causing it to be

lost. Not widely known is that the crew that went down with the Hunley after its attack on the USS Housatonic was the third crew to be lost. What happened to the other two crews and where were they buried? If you enjoy battlefield archeology this program solves the mystery of the previous Hunley crew that was "lost" for forty-five years.

Ed Kennedy is the Vice President of the Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table and a retired US Army infantry officer. He retired as an assistant professor at the US Army's Command and General Staff College, Redstone Arsenal satellite campus. He served on the graduate faculty for nineteen years while on active duty and as a retired civil servant. He taught graduate-level military history, taking senior Army leaders and students to battlefields around the country and overseas to study campaigns and battles. In his nineteen years he taught in three academic departments: history, tactics, and leadership. He continues to frequently take military students to battlefields such as Chickamauga, Georgia to study leadership, tactics, and logistics and is a frequent speaker to veterans', civic and historical groups.

### **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).

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.

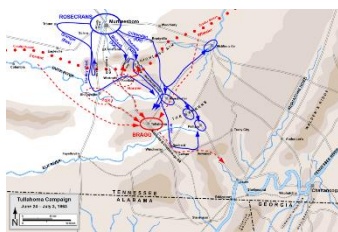
To leave the meeting, simply click the "leave meeting" button in the lower right-hand corner of your screen or hang up your phone.



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](http://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.*



**TVCWRT Field Trip Scheduled: October 31, 2020, The Tullahoma Campaign of 1863;** Hold Saturday, October 31, 2020, for our annual field trip. **We are nearing the date when we must decide if we are going to make this trip or cancel. It would be helpful if your intention is to go on the Field trip to let us know by email, telephone, or verbally.**

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,



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

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, 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 operational 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 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](http://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.*



## 2020 Remaining schedule of speakers;

**August 13**, Sailors Under the Stadium (Zoom meeting) *Presented by Ed Kennedy*

**September 10**, The Immortal 600, *Presented by Mauriel Joslyn*

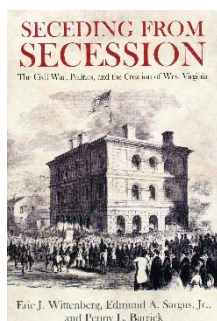
**October 8**, U.S. Grant: After Donelson, before Shiloh, *Presented by Curt Fields*

**November 12**, U.S. Cavalry at Brandy Station, VA, *Presented by Eric Wittenberg*

## TVCWRT Features

### Book Reviews;

Seceding From Secession; The Civil War, Politics, and the Creation of West Virginia, By Eric J. Whittenburg, Edmund A. Sargus, Jr., and Penny L. Barrick, *This is a Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table review by Arley McCormick*



The travel to statehood for West Virginia is not a hot topic for most Civil War enthusiasts and particularly the boots and bayonet variety. But like every significant historical moment surrounding the Civil War, the impact upon the nation was significant if not fleeting. The authors comprehensively characterize the circumstances from an, economic, military, political, and legal perspective, and clearly illustrate the collective impact of the decisions of the West Virginia citizens.

The authors layout the Sectional differences that existed between the Virginia counties west of the Allegheny Mountains vs. east of the mountain range since before the American Revolution and that grew as the eastern counties political power supporting slavery isolated the western counties from economic opportunity.

The western counties economic activity was closely connected to Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. With railroads and the nation's population expanding westward, access to the Ohio and the Mississippi River was significant. The B&O Railroad, having supported the western counties immensely since 1828, was derailed by eastern politicians when the authority to expand the B&O to the Ohio River failed. Consequently, in 1851 serious discussions centered upon separating from Virginia. The US Constitution included a provision for establishing a separate state and there was precedent. Yet the effort fell short until 1861.

Virginia's Secession decision in April 1861 kicked off aggressive descent and this time the stakes reached beyond the few Virginia counties west of the Allegheny Mountains. President Abraham Lincoln, desperately trying to keep border states in the Union, poled his cabinet. Salmon P. Chase of Ohio aggressively supported creating a new state and five years later was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court when the legal issue was settled.

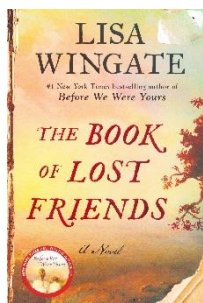
The authors highlight it all and even satisfy the boots and bayonet enthusiasts with details regarding the B&O Railroad's significance as a military objective and target for both Union and Confederate cavalry raids till March of 1865. And while the authors draw conclusions based upon their study, the

Appendix includes significant documents: the letters to the President from his Cabinet regarding the West Virginia question, the complaint from the State of Virginia to West Virginia that preceded court action, and the two Supreme Court decisions on the subject.

There were movements in many states to abandon the South after secession, but at the end of the day West Virginia succeeded and was the first slave state to join the Union.

Digesting this comprehensive effort, the road to West Virginia statehood will now rate more than a passing footnote to Border state discussions and secession.

**The Book of Lost Friends**, by Lisa Wingate, Ballantine Books, New York, 2020, 288 pages. *A Tennessee River Civil War Round Table Review by Lynda McCormick*



It's a split time novel that does not feature the boots and saber format normally associated with characters that fought the battles, died on their own front lawn, or suffered debilitating disease. It is a story of seeking family and friends sold as slaves or lost in the confusion of the Civil War's aftermath and Reconstruction. The empty chair at their table and their trauma woven into stories that will keep you turning the pages and reacquaint you with suffering in the South under the uncontrollable and devastating circumstances unleashed after the

Civil War.

Lisa Wingate is a nationally renowned writer who has authored over 40 non-fiction and fiction books and at least one a New York Times best seller. The focus of this effort is the search initiated to find lost acquaintances and family as solicited in Southern newspapers after the Civil War. Three friends from Louisiana in 1875, a former slave, a destitute former plantation heir, and her half sister set out in the midst of dangerous and uncertain times, each burdened with the scares of their past, attempt to find their place in Texas. And in 1987 an indebt school teacher finds employment in a Louisiana Mississippi River town that is resistant to change, new ideas, and new people. The characters are inspired by real-life documented drama that challenged society in their day. It will be difficult to abandon the book on the night table.

**“There is nothing permanent except change”**

**Heraclitus:**

***Help the TVCWRT weather the change!***



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

This is the final installment for Part II: The Slide into War; 1859 – Fort Sumpter 1861.

### **Part II: The Slide into War; 1859 – Fort Sumter 1861: Building a Military Force**

*By Ed Kennedy and Arley McCormick*

#### **The Pre-War Environment through 1861**

John Brown was hanged in December 1859 and his raid caused rage and panic throughout the North and South. In the North the raid focused the population on the abolitionist agenda and in the South the focus was on preventing a slave rebellion and securing protection against further excursions with similar intent. Yet with all rhetoric, most felt this crisis would also pass. *[Read the excellent discussion on this in “A Disease in the Public Mind: A New Understanding of Why We Fought the Civil War” by Thomas Fleming].*

The issue of excessive tariffs on Southern states was debated hotly and was considered as important an issue as the slavery issue. Southern states were forced to pay 75% of the Federal taxes that were then used primarily in the North rather than the South, causing increasingly hard feelings. The imposition of the huge Morrill tariff on 1 April 1861 signaled to Southerners that they would be subjected to tax duties of significant consequences as a result of economic greed by the northern Republicans. *[Read: Slavery Was Not the Cause of the War Between the States: The Irrefutable Argument by Gene Kizer]*

The major dilemma approaching the end of the decade was the 1860 Presidential election. The Republican party offered Abraham Lincoln of Illinois for President and Hannibal Hamlin for his Vice President, the Southern Democrats offered John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky and Joseph Lane for his Vice President, the Constitutional Union party offered John Bell of Tennessee for President and Edward Everett for his Vice President, and the Northern Democratic Party offered Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois for president and Herschel V. Johnson for his Vice President. The South's greatest fear was Lincoln despite promises not to interfere with slavery. His name did not appear on the ballot of most Southern States and when he won, the road to session was clearly open and the number of states seceding grew rapidly. Only seven Southern states initially seceded when Lincoln won the election, thus triggering the involvement of the US Army in the fray.

The U.S. Army was largely divorced from the political actions occurring in the late 1850s. This was due to the natural consequence of the Constitutional restrictions followed by the professional Army. However, there still occurred talk at the officers' messes regarding politics, Army officers were held by their oaths and honor from participating or interfering in politics. In Kansas, still the edge of the frontier, the Army was engaged in attempting to assist civil authorities in keeping the peace while maintaining neutrality. Fort Leavenworth became

important not only as a depot for supplies going west, but as a base of operations for Regular Army troops maintaining the peace on the Missouri-Kansas border area. It was located just a couple of hours ride from Lawrence, Kansas to the south, a key hotbed of the border troubles. Much of the border fighting occurred between Fort Leavenworth and Fort Scott, Kansas located four days ride to the south on the Kansas-Missouri border.

In the late 1850s, the US Army was stretched very thinly across the country with an end-strength of only 16,000 men (less than half of NYC's police department today). Units were garrisoned in small company-sized detachments of 60-100 men in forts that were widely dispersed. A chain of installations ran from Fort Snelling near the Canadian border to the Rio Grande River and were connected by the "Military Road". It essentially established the western frontier. Units rarely combined together except for major operations such as the Mormon expedition of 1857 where only 1,500 troops were involved, one of the largest concentrations of troops since the Mexican-American War ten years prior. This meant that officers had almost no opportunities to train with large units and experience the attendant problems. Many had no experience maneuvering larger units than companies, yet, when the war began, were expected to move and maneuver formations of thousands of men accompanied by cavalry and artillery. The logistics issues were overwhelming.

There were arsenals and fortifications in the seceding states. They were located both inside the state interiors and along the 3,000(+) miles of Southern coastline. A number of key forts guarded harbors. As each state seceded, the state governments expected the Federal installations in their states to be abandoned by the Federal government and if not, the states seized them. The Federal soldiers manning the garrisons were allowed to leave and were escorted out of the states. Fort Sumter was seized by force but the garrison was allowed to depart rather than be kept as prisoners.

When the War Department began reacting to the events at Fort Sumter, the Regulars left the western forts as they were recalled to return to the east. Initially, state militias took their places. States quickly tried to form units to replace the Regular US Army units with mixed results ---- mostly poor ones. Where there were no state militias to occupy the forts, they were abandoned to the Native Indians. Militias gave way to volunteer units where they could be formed. They were armed, uniformed, and equipped by the US government. One such unit, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Colorado Cavalry, was one of the state volunteer units guarding settlements in the West. It never left Colorado and was involved in the "Sand Creek Massacre" of the Cheyenne in 1864.

General Winfield Scott (US Army 1808-1862) was the Commanding General of the Army in 1861. He was an ageing, rotund hero of the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, and numerous conflicts with Native American Indians. He was referred to as "Old Fuss and Feathers" for his insistence on proper military etiquette, and as the "Grand Old Man of the Army" for his many years of service. Scott's consolidation of the Regular Army to focus on training by abandoning western forts helped distribute experienced leaders to various posts, camps, and

stations. He also developed the strategy of blockading Southern ports that became known as the “Anaconda Plan”.

Because many of the senior military leaders in the South had served in the US military before the war, they naturally adopted many of the same organizational structures and titles that the Union side did. The Confederate manuals were re-written and were published virtually identically to those used by the US Army. Armies of both sides largely used organizations and tactics that were almost identical, even reading from the same manuals.

#### Operational and Tactical Organization of Armies

General Scott divided the country into geographic/administrative areas to aid the War Department in command and control of Union forces, initially referring to them as a Military Division. The Military Division was a collection of Departments reporting to one commander (e.g., Military Division of the Mississippi, Middle Military Division, Military Division of the James).

US military Departments were organized in a defined geographic region and responsible for the Federal installations and the field armies within their borders. It was more common to name Departments for rivers (such as Department of the Tennessee, Department of the Cumberland) or regions (Department of the Pacific, Department of New England, Department of the East, Department of the West, Middle Department). The Departments, administrative Divisions, and Districts would be modified a number of times over the course of the war. This caused frustration with a number of politically appointed generals who dealt with the convoluted chain of command by bypassing it.

The principle fighting force was an “Army” (an operational/tactical organization) usually, but not always, assigned to a District or Department. The Army (example: The Army of the Ohio) was divided into lower tactical organizations known as “corps” (normally two or more), and each subsequent subordinate formation would be composed of two or more formations; i.e., the corps was composed of divisions the division of regiments, the regiments divided into companies. To add confusion, regiments and battalions were used interchangeably even though a regiment might be sub-divided into battalions (several companies less than the 10-12 of the regiment).

The formations and their composition were based upon military formations designed, tested and adopted during the Napoleonic era. They were taught at West Point and other military schools as Napoleon was, oddly enough, considered the archetype military “model”. Although Napoleon was defeated by a Coalition including the British, the US Army became enamored with all things French. French was taught at military schools. Uniforms incorporated French aspects that influenced uniform designs until the 1870s when France fell to the Prussians. Several of the manuals in use by the US Army were virtually direct translations from the French manuals and the Army shamelessly copied the drawings of French soldiers to illustrate the US manuals. Unfortunately, the tactics of the Napoleonic era were also adopted even though they were dated a half-century later. Napoleonic tactics failed to consider the improvements in artillery and infantry weapons’ technologies which accounted for the devastating

attrition on the battlefield when they were used with outdated tactics. The Mexican War (13 years prior to the War Between the States) influenced many Army leaders who had served then returned to civil life. Many leaders were not cognizant of how much had changed in weapons' technologies in the intervening years of the 1850s.

While General Winfield Scott provided the initial strategic war guidance to expand the Union Army, the Confederate Army had no similar position as General-in-Chief and depended upon the former Secretary of War and militia volunteer colonel and Mexican War hero, President Jefferson Davis. Both Scott and Davis depended upon graduates and former graduates of West Point for the expertise and experience necessary to organize, train, and fight. The South also possessed the talented graduates of other military academies such as the Virginia Military Institute and the Citadel whose graduates were to fulfill important roles.

Both sides had a similar problem with forming armies. While the US had a significant head-start with the Regular Army, it also had the infrastructure already in-place to administer it through the existing War Department. The Confederates had no such advantage. Both sides had militias but they had become more of social organizations than military ones except on the western frontier. President Davis was compelled to initially depend upon each states' militia to provide forces for defense of the South. It was evident that militias would not work in the coming conflict. Militias were usually constrained to only serving inside their home states. Volunteers were not constrained in this manner. The Confederates formed a very small number of "Regular Army" units. They never as many regular units as the US Army had and the overwhelming preponderance were volunteer units.

In April 1861, with the firing on Fort Sumter by artillery forces of South Carolina, the militias proved to be completely insufficient. The impending invasion of the South by the Union Army of almost 191,000 Regular and volunteer soldiers changed everything. The US Regular Army stayed relatively small and was not a fraction of the size required at the time of the war. Both sides, in the American tradition, resorted to forming larger armies based on "volunteers". This tradition extended back to colonial times when forces were formed by citizen soldiers. Both sides began recruiting state volunteer units according to requirements levied on them from their respective central governments. Of course, the militias were quickly incorporated into the state volunteer units. State volunteer regiments were numbered in the order of formation and their state name was appended to their nomenclature. As examples: 110<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania "Volunteers" (Infantry Regiment), 56<sup>th</sup> Virginia Volunteer Infantry Regiment, their numbers reflecting the sequence in which they were authorized by their states.

Confederate military units were similar to Union ones, but slightly smaller than their Union Army counterparts. They just did not have the resources to fill the ranks and outfit their units to the same numbers the Union Army could. Confederate infantry regiments were established with 10 companies instead of the 12 in Union Army infantry regiments. Artillery batteries in the Confederate

Army only had four guns to the six in Union Army batteries. The size of the units on paper looked impressive for units on both sides but by the second year of the war, it was very common in both armies for infantry regiments to form in ranks with only 50% or less manpower due to losses, mostly by disease. The regiment, on paper should have had 1,046 men in the ranks. The average in May 1863 was 530. They decreased more as the war continued with the average a year later being 440 men in the ranks.

War fever gripped the men of both sides in 1861 and volunteers, eager to fight, enlisted by the thousands. By the end of the first year, things would change significantly, the realities of a long conflict tempered the initial excitement and for the first time in American history, a military draft was instituted ---- by the Confederacy.



### **August 1861; The War Focus Is West and Rule of Law.**

In the East, August was a month the North reorganized while Indians become a distraction in the West. The Union army and civilians responded to the impact and loss of free speech and the war in South Missouri resulted in another Union Army failure.

#### **Political:**

The Baltimore City *Police Commission* President, Charles Howard, addressed US Secretary, Simon Cameron and Bvt. Lieut. General Winfield Scott, protesting against the alleged harsh treatment of the political prisoners at Fort Lafayette, MD.

John LaMountain's technical innovation of an observation balloon is reported as the first balloon ascent from a ship, the *Fanny*, off Hampton Roads, Hampton, VA.

The Honorable Thomas A.R. Nelson was arrested on his way to the Union lines by Confederates in TN. He opposed his state's action regarding secession but President Jefferson Davis, CSA, ordered his release.

A Federal Camp "Dick Robinson" was established near Lexington, KY, to bolster the standing of Pro-Union men there.

The 79<sup>th</sup> NY Regiment mutinied. The Army of the Potomac unit was angry due to lack of furloughs and they were followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ME Regiment which resulted in the transfer of some 60 men to duty on Dry Tortugas, off Key West, FL.

Many New York City newspapers were charged by the Federal Government with publishing Pro-Southern articles and the newspaper offices in Easton and West Chester, PA were raided by Pro-unionist men while the editor of the Haverhill, MA newspaper was tarred and feathered by an anti-South mob. The Honorable Montgomery Blair recommended that certain Baltimore, MD newspapers be suppressed.



Jefferson Davis appointed the following to represent the Confederacy in Europe; John Slidell, (France), James M. Mason, (Great Britain) Pierre A. Rost (Spain)

The US War Department directed that certain paroled prisoners be discharged from military service of the United States.

In an action that President Abraham Lincoln later called “dictatorial” and totally without any authorization, Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, USA declared all of the following;

1. an “Emancipation Proclamation” for Missouri
2. proclaimed martial law in Missouri with his purpose to confiscate the property and liberate the slaves of disloyal owners.
3. orders the arrest of all disloyal persons found within the Union lines to be armed.
4. directed the extreme penalty of the law be inflicted on the destroyers of the railroad and telegraph lines, bridges, etc.

**United States Army Brigadier General Officer Appointments:**

John Joseph Abercrombie	Israel Bush Richardson
William Farquhar Barry	James Wolf Ripley
Ambrose Everett Burnside	John Sedgwick
Silas Casey	James Shields
James William Denver	Henry Warner Slocum
Abram Duryee	Charles Ferguson Smith
Lawrence Pike Graham	William Farrar Smith
Henry Wager Halleck	Samuel Davis Sturgis
Henry Hayes Lockwood	Lorenzo Thomas
John Henry Martindale	Louis Ludwig Trimble
George Gordon Meade	James Samuel Wadsworth
George Webb Morrell	George Stoneman
John James Peck	George Henry Thomas
John Fulton Reynolds	Egbert Ludovicus Viele

**Confederate Brigadier General Appointments:**

George Bibb Crittenden	Albert Pike
Arnold Elzey	Boswell Sabine Ripley
John Breckinridge Grayson	Daniel Ruggles
Paul Octave Hebert	Issac Ridgeway Trimble

**Changes in Districts and Commands:**

**Union Actions;**

Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, assumes command of the District of Ironton, MO, and Kentucky and Tennessee are constituted as the Department of the Cumberland under command of Brig. Gen. Robert Anderson, recently of Fort Sumter, Charleston, SC. fame.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. John Ellis Wool replaced Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler in command of the Department of Virginia and the Departments of Northeastern Virginia, Washington, and the Shenandoah are merged into the Department (Army) of the Potomac. The Department of

Pennsylvania is absorbed into the Department of the Potomac as Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan assumes command of the Department of the Army of the Potomac which will forever be known as "The Army of the Potomac".

Col Benjamin L. Beal, 1<sup>st</sup> US Dragoons is assigned to command the District of Oregon.

### **Confederate Actions;**

President Jefferson Davis orders Gen. Robert E. Lee to take command of Confederate forces in WV following the debacle on July 13, 1861 at Carrick's Ford. Lee replaces Brig. Gen. William W. Loring.

Tennessee Governor Isham G. Harris proposes to visit Richmond, VA, to confer with the Confederate authorities upon the threatening aspect of affairs in East Tennessee.

Brig. Gen. John Buchanan Floyd assumes command of Confederate forces in the Valley of the Kanawha, WV and Brig. Gen. Earl Van Dorn is replaced by Brig. Gen. Paul O. Hebert to command the Confederate forces in Texas.

Brig. Gen. Richard Caswell Gatlin assumes the command of the defenses of North Carolina while Brig. Gen. John Breckinridge Grayson is assigned to command the Confederate Department, Middle and East Florida and Brig. Gen. Roswell Sabine Ripley is assigned to command the Department of South Carolina.

### **California;**

Federal scouts from Fort Crook near the Round Valley skirmish (August 5<sup>th</sup>) with Indians in the Upper Pitt River Valley and another Federal expedition from Fort Crook moving to the Pitt River skirmish with Indians near Kellogg's lake.

### **Maryland;**

There was a skirmish at Sandy Hook and at Antietam Iron Works north of the Potomac.

### **Missouri;**

Skirmishing took place frequently. There was a skirmish at Edina as a Federal reconnaissance from Ironton to Centreville with Col. B. Gratz Brown, 4<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry was being executed and at Dug Spring near Springfield where Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch, CSA, was pitted against Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon, USA.

Skirmishing continued at McCulla's store and Athens while Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyons, USA, retreated from Dug Springs toward Springfield, due to reports of advancing Confederates.

A Federal expedition to Price's landing, Commerce, Benton and Hamburg was executed with troops being ferried on the US steamer *Lutta*, under Maj. John McDonald, 8<sup>th</sup> Missouri Infantry.

The Battle of Oak Hills, Springfield, or Wilson's Creek resulted in another Confederate victory following Bull Run or Manassas, VA. Brig. General Nathaniel Lyon USA, was mortally wounded, Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis, USA, assumed command and retreated to Rolla, MO. conceding a large portion of Missouri to the Confederates. Brig. Gen Ben McCulloch, CSA combined his force with the Missouri State Militia under Sterling Price to defeat the Union troops.

There was a skirmish at Potosi with Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, USA and brief contact at Hamburg with Brig. Gen. M. Jeff Thompson, MO State Guard while a Federal expedition to Saint Genevieve aboard the US steamer *Hannibal City* led by Major John McDonald, 8<sup>th</sup> MO Infantry was under way.

There were Federal expeditions to Fredericktown and contact around Kirksville as marauders fired into a passenger train on the Hamilton and Saint Joseph Railroad and skirmishes at Brunswick, Hunnewell, and Palmyra where Confederates were reported to have

fired into a train of Federal troops. A skirmish at Charleston or Bird Point across the river from Cairo, IL resulted in a union victory over the Missouri State Guard but skirmishing at Klapsford occurred when a Confederate attack was reported on a railroad train near Lookout Station.

Skirmishing occurred at Fish Lake, Jonesborough, Medoe, Ball's Mill, and Morse's Mill near Lexington distracting from Operations in Southeastern Missouri.

### **New Mexico Territory;**

After capturing Fort Fillmore on July 26, 1861, Capt. John Baylor, CSA declared that all the territory in New Mexico and Arizona south of the 34<sup>th</sup> parallel, belonged to the Confederacy.

Fort Stanton, near Messilla, was abandoned due to the efforts of Capt. John Baylor, CSA and there was skirmishing near Fort Craig as well as Confederate operations against Indians near Fort Stanton, by Lieut. John R, Pulliam.

### **North Carolina;**

The Union sent an Expeditionary Force and landed troops at Cape Hatteras, Hatteras Inlet while the Confederates abandon Fort Clark, near Cape Hatteras. Union forces capture the Confederate batteries at Hatteras Inlet, including Fort Hatteras and Fort Clark.

### **Texas;**

Apache Indians led by Chief Nicholas attack and kill about 15 Confederate soldiers south of Fort Davis in the Big Bend country. The Confederates, in their effort to control the entire southwest, want to appease all the Indian tribes and do nothing in return. But there is a skirmish with Apache Indians near Fort Bliss by Col. John R. Baylor, CSA

### **Utah Territory;**

Indians attack an emigrant train near Salt Lake.

### **West Virginia;**

Skirmishing is reported at Grafton, Hawk's Nest, Laurel Fork Creek, Springfield, and near Piggot's Mill (Big Run) with Brig. Gen. Henry A. Wise CSA while his camp is severely disabled by measles. There is a skirmish at Blue's House and decisive action at Cross-Lanes, near Summerville resulting in an overwhelming Confederate victory by Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd CSA. He surprised Col Tyler, 27<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, and his men while they ate breakfast. There was also a skirmish at Wayne Courthouse.

### **Virginia;**

There was skirmishing in Virginia opposite Point of Rocks, MD, as Hampton Roads was burned by Brig. Gen. John B. Magruder, CSA in part for Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler's, USA position of not returning slaves to their owners while using Hampton to house them.

The 1<sup>st</sup> NY Cavalry sent by Brig. Gen. William Franklin skirmish at Lovettsville and Federals scouting to Accotink skirmished at Pohick Church about 12 miles south of Alexandria.

Federals scouted into Virginia from Great Falls MD, skirmish at Ball's Crossroads and near Bailey's Corners, (or Cross Roads) below Washington DC. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> MI Infantry were involved.

Col George W Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> NJ Infantry skirmished at Munson's Hill or the Little River Turnpike.

### **Navy Operations;**

The blockade runner, *CSA Alvarado*, was captured and burned off the Florida coast near Fernandina by the US steamer *USS Vincennes*.

The War Department signed a contract with Mr. James B. Eads of St. Louis, MO, to construct seven iron clad gun boats which became the main military force of the Union's

western river operations. They were the *USS Cairo*, *Carondolet*, *Cincinnati*, *Louisville*, *Mound City*, *Pittsburg*, and *St. Louis*.

The following wooden Union gunboats (converted riverboats), arrived at Cairo, IL. They will support all Federal river operations until the ironclads can be built; *USS Conestoga*, *Lexington*, and *Tyler*.

The Confederate privateer, *Jefferson Davis*, ran aground and sank off St. Augustine, FL, ending a most destructive career and the Federal, *USS Lexington*, captured the steamer, *CSS W.B. Terry*, and the mail steamboat, *Samuel Orr*, at Paducah, KY.

The engagement of the steamers *Yankee* and the *Release* (ice boat), with the batteries at the mouth of the Potomac Creek commanded by Col. R.M. Cary, 30<sup>th</sup> VA Infantry resulted with little impact.

The US ships *Cumberland*, *Fanny*, *Harriet Lane*, *Minnesota*, *Monticello*, *Pawnee*, *Susquehanna* and the *Wabash* under command of Commodore Silas Stringham USN, in conjunction with Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler USA, sail from Hampton Roads, VA. for the North Carolina Coast at Cape Hatteras with 900 Union soldiers to attack Forts Clark and Hatteras.

**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!)**

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.

In 1862, major operations began in the Western Theater with the principal objective; gain control of the Mississippi river. 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 23d**, the Little Round Table launched 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 ended the night with the Confederate defeat at Arkansas Post in early January 1863.

General Van Dorn charted a lackluster career before the Holly Springs Raid. He lost the battle at Pea Ridge and didn't turn in a stellar performance at Corinth or Iuka. As Commander of the Department of Mississippi/East Louisiana he did strengthen the defenses of Vicksburg but in the process crossed the Governor of the state and prominent business men when he declared martial law. And his promiscuous personal conduct offended influential leaders. He was replaced by LTG John C. Pemberton. General Van Dorn was court martialed and acquitted, and Pemberton appointed him Chief of Pemberton's cavalry. Van Dorn led his cavalry on the raid that turned out to be the most productive raid in the history of the "War Between the States" and the only military action that altered General Grant's strategy regarding the capturing Vicksburg.

Chickasaw Bayou was General Sherman's worst disaster. A Navy reconnaissance set the tone and mother nature complicated every move. Confederate General Stephen D. Hill organized a defensive plan that maximized the advantage of the terrain by providing ample artillery at opposite ends of the high ground to effectively create a kill zone that neutralized every union formation thrust against the defending Confederate troops. Sherman shamefully withdrew.

Political intrigue instigated by Union General John Alexander McClernand resulted in Sherman turning operational authority over to him in the absence of any communication with General Grant. General Sherman convinced General McClernand that Arkansas Post was an objective that fit the parameters of the strategic mission of securing the navigation of the Mississippi River, the main branches, and interdicting the supply line of the Confederacy east/west. McClernand's Union army and navy force deposed of a smaller under gunned Confederate fortification with the only controversy being a disagreement between Confederate officers. The Confederate commander, BG Thomas James Churchill, claimed he never gave an order to surrender even though white flags popped up intermittently along the 400 yd-long fortifications.

Through the course of our study questions remain and beg to be considered and addressed 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. *Arley McCormick July lead*



**On August 27 Fred Forst** will lead our discussion of Grant's bayou operations, January–March 1863. To help everyone get an early start on their research here are the highlights from those months:

During the Winter of 1863 Grant conducted a series of initiatives to approach and capture Vicksburg, these are called "Grant's bayou operations". Their general theme was to use or construct alternative waterways so that troops could be positioned within striking distance of Vicksburg, without requiring a direct approach on the Mississippi under the Confederate guns. These included:

**Grant's Canal** - The Williams Canal across De Soto Peninsula had been abandoned by Adm. Farragut and Brig. Gen. Williams in July 1862, but it had the potential to offer a route downriver that bypassed Vicksburg's guns. In late January 1863, Sherman's men, at the urging of Grant—who was advised by the navy that President Lincoln liked the idea—resumed digging. Sherman derisively called the work "Butler's Ditch" as the previous summer Benjamin Butler had sent Williams upriver to do the work, which was barely 6 feet wide by 6 feet deep.

Grant, undoubtedly influenced by Lincoln's continuous inquiries as to the status of the canal, ordered Sherman to expand the canal to 60 feet wide and 7 feet deep and to reorient the entrance point to align better with the river current. It was not properly engineered based upon the hydrology of the Mississippi River, however, and a sudden rise in the river broke through the dam at the head of the canal and flooded the area. The canal began to fill up with back water and sediment. In a desperate effort to rescue the project, two huge steam-driven dipper dredges, Hercules and Sampson, attempted to clear the channel, but the dredges were exposed to Confederate artillery fire from the bluffs at Vicksburg and driven away. By late March, work on the canal was abandoned. (Remnants of about 200 yards of Grant's Canal are maintained by the Vicksburg National Military Park in Louisiana).

**Lake Providence expedition** - Grant ordered Brig. Gen. James B. McPherson to construct a canal of several hundred yards from the Mississippi to Lake Providence, northwest of the city. This would allow passage to the Red River, through Bayous Baxter and Macon, and the Tensas and Black Rivers. Reaching the Red River, Grant's force could join with Banks at Port Hudson. McPherson reported that the connection was navigable on March 18, but the few boats that had been sent to Grant for navigation of the bayous could only transport 8,500 men, far too few to tip the balance at Port Hudson. Although this was the only one of the bayou expeditions to successfully bypass the Vicksburg defenses, historian Ed Bearss calls this episode the "Lake Providence Boondoggle".

**Yazoo Pass expedition** - The next attempt was to get to the high ground of the loess bluffs above Hayne's Bluff and below Yazoo City by blowing up the Mississippi River levee near Moon Lake, 150 miles above Vicksburg, near Helena, Arkansas, and following the Yazoo Pass into the Coldwater River, then to the Tallahatchie River, and finally into the Yazoo River at Greenwood, Mississippi. The dikes were blown up on February 3, beginning what was called the Yazoo Pass Expedition. Ten Union boats, under the command of Lt. Cmdr. Watson Smith, with army troops under the command of Brig. Gen. Benjamin Prentiss, began moving through the pass on February 7. But low-hanging trees destroyed anything on the gunboats above deck and Confederates felled more trees to block the way. These delays allowed the Confederates time to quickly construct a "Fort Pemberton" near the confluence of the Tallahatchie and Yalobusha Rivers near Greenwood, Mississippi, which repulsed the naval force and the effort was abandoned in April.

**Steele's Bayou expedition** - Admiral Porter started an effort on March 14 to go up the Yazoo Delta via Steele's Bayou, just north of Vicksburg, to Deer Creek. This would outflank Fort Pemberton and allow landing troops between Vicksburg and Yazoo City. Confederates once again felled trees in their path, and willow reeds fouled the boats' paddlewheels. This time the Union boats became immobilized, and Confederate cavalry and infantry threatened to capture them. Sherman sent infantry assistance to repel the Confederates bedeviling Porter, and the boats were extracted.

Duckport Canal - Grant's final attempt was to dig another canal from Duckport Landing to Walnut Bayou, aimed at getting lighter boats past Vicksburg. By the time the canal was almost finished, on April 6, water levels were declining, and none but the lightest of flatboats could get through. Grant abandoned this canal and started planning anew.

The September meeting will take up the story from this point. I will be substituting for Kent Wright and leading the September discussion. *J.R Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator*

### **Questions We Continue 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 C. 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?

### **LRT 2020-2021 Schedule**

**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 by J.R Ewing

**October 22** – Vicksburg Campaign 4 – Snyder's faint and 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

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