

**The TVCWRT is open for business Thursday, 10 September** and we will configure seating to maximize your safety and health. (Note the Little Round Table has met two months in a row at the Elks with no ill effects reported.)

1. Enter side lobby door (not the bar door) with mask on. Honor system that you do not have temperature or showing symptoms; have not traveled to COVID hotspots or have person now in your residence with symptoms.
2. Mask to remain on, except when sitting to eat or drink in dining room. (No smoking.)
3. 5:30--food and drink available in dining room. Sandwiches and a dinner special only, the server will take your order. ---NO BUFFET.

**Meeting set up in ballroom guidance:**

1. Keep masks on during program, before and after; wear to move around (e.g., bathroom).
2. Seating will be in groupings of 4 chairs; six feet apart. Not necessary to fill chairs as arranged. You may move chairs to sit solo or in other groupings such as with family but practice social distancing. **6 feet apart from others.**

*For those who notice: There has been no smoking in the room we meet in at the Elk's since March. There will be NO further smoking in that room in the future. You will notice a fresher atmosphere in the ballroom and we expect it to get even better over future months. Smoking is permitted in the bar area, but the doors will be shut during our visits. You must go outside to smoke a cigar.*

**The Tullahoma Campaign of 1863 Field Trip is scheduled. If you plan to go, please pay for the trip now. If we must cancel the trip, you will be reimbursed. We will take the appropriate measures for health and safety. Failure to acquire the minimum number for participants jeopardizes the Field Trip.**

# Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table September 2020 Newsletter



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## **Announcements:**



**Mauriel P. Joslyn**

Thursday, 10 September, Mauriel Joslyn presents the *Immortal 600*. Her topic is based upon her research and book that documents the experiences of 600 Confederate officers imprisoned by the Union Army and used as shields for the duration of the War Between the States. (Quite by coincidence, our own Margorie Reeves completed her research on the Immortal 600 and wrote an article that will appear in the Huntsville Madison County Historical Review next year. She approved putting it in our newsletter first.) A Lieutenant from Huntsville was one of the 600. It will sharpen your thoughts in preparation for Ms. Joslyn's presentation. Read the article below.

Mauriel Joslyn was born in Manchester, Georgia. She grew up in Harris County, West Georgia, and her roots go back to the settlers of that part of Georgia. Influenced by family stories of all the kin who had fought for the Confederacy, her interest in the war appeared early on, coinciding with Centennial Celebrations. She attended Southern Seminary Jr. College in Buena Vista, Virginia because she wanted to be near battlefields and continue exploring her interest. In 1978, she obtained a History Degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. She picked up a husband along the way who attended VMI at the same time she was in college. They shared an intense interest in the war and spent many years actively re-enacting during the 125th and 135th commemorations across the country. They have two sons who also have had a love of history.

Moving back to Georgia, she and her husband, Rick, purchased an 1822 house in Sparta. She pursued a writing career and her first book was ***Immortal Captives: The Story of 600 Confederate Officers and the US Prisoner of War Policy***. The topic of prisoners of war had very limited research, and much of her book is original in its sources.

The Immortal 600 refers to a group of Confederate officers who were chosen in August 1864 to be used as human shields. This was in response to a stalemate in Charleston Harbor as Union warships could not break the Fort Sumter defense to take the city. For six weeks they were held under the fire of the Confederate guns at Sumter firing at Union batteries at Fort Wagner on Morris Island. The palisade enclosure where they were kept was located under the Union guns as protection from Sumter's guns. Many shells fell in the prisoner compound. They were later moved to Fort Pulaski outside Savannah, Ga. That fort was in Union hands. Here they were subjected to starvation rations and no medical treatment as retaliation for reports of shortages in Confederate

prisons. They remained there until March 1865, then returned to Fort Delaware until the war ended.

Mrs. Joslyn's research is based on primary documents, diaries, US Congressional debates, letters, and a few memoirs written by men on both sides after the war. It is a compelling story of courage, faith, and endurance.

Checkout Marjorie Reeves article, "*The Alabama 26 of the Immortal 600*" below.

Other books by Mauriel Joslyn:

- ***Charlotte's Boys: Correspondence of the Branch Family of Savannah, Georgia 1861-1865***; Howell Press, 1996; reprinted Pelican Press, 2010.
- ***Confederate Women***; Pelican Press, 2004.
- ***A Meteor Shining Brightly: Essays on Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne*** (won 1998 Georgia Author of the Year for best biography in Georgia Writers Awards); Mercer University Press, 1998.
- ***Immortal Captives***; Joslyn, Mauriel P. White Mane Publishing Company, Inc, 1996

## **The Alabama 26 of the Immortal 600**

*By Marjorie Ann Reeves*

There are many horrors in wars perpetrated by the opponents both unintentional and intentional. The Union soldiers made many false excuses for their cruelty to the Confederate soldiers they captured and imprisoned. Captain John Ogden Murray of the 11<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, one of the 600 who did survive the cruelty wrote about his experience in, *The Immortal Six-Hundred*, in 1905. Even though it was published 40 years after the fact, one can read the pain he carried all those years later. Mauriel Phillips Joslyn published a book in 1996, *Immortal Captives*, providing much more detail on the evilness. 1<sup>st</sup> LT Edmund I. Mastin of Huntsville was counted among the Immortal 600.

Secretary of War Edwin Stanton along with Ulysses Grant chose to forbid prisoner exchange because Southerners would go back to their companies to fight where Northerners rarely did. Plus, there were more men to spend for war in the North's 23 states than the South's 13 states. Plus, they believed the exchange of prisoners would show recognition of the South's status as a nation and that was not acceptable to the Northern politicians. Their decision caused all prisons, North and South, to become inundated. The South was struggling to feed itself and found the added population of the prisoners caused an even greater burden. The Confederate government requested prisoner exchange on humanitarian grounds many times but the North turned a deaf ear to the pleas. The Confederacy sent six Union prisoners to Washington. They were there for three days yet President Lincoln refused to meet with them. Edward Wellington Boate, 42<sup>nd</sup> NY Inf., Andersonville prisoner, wrote "I cannot help stating that the

lives of some ten or twelve thousand men might have been spared had an exchange justly, I will not add generously, taken place at this period.”

The North expressed outrage over the South putting Northern prisoners in houses in Charleston, SC, where the Yankees were firing cannons at the city. Some of the prisoners wrote that they were very well treated and had plenty of what was needed to sustain themselves. The rumors of the horror of Andersonville added to the hate of Southerners. Northern prisons withheld blankets, food, medicine, and supplies implementing a policy of “retaliation” even though the North had plenty to spare. Union General John Foster acknowledged the Charleston prisoners were not in the area that was under fire yet requested 600 Confederate officers from Northern prisons to be used for retaliation. August 12th, 1864, the prisoners were given the idea that they would be sent to Charleston Harbor, S.C. to be exchanged yet the 600 men from Fort Delaware were transported to Morris Island, between Wagner and Gregg, to be used as hostages, serve as shields, and living breastworks for the Union troops.

The prisoners from Alabama:

2<sup>nd</sup> LT William A. Allen, Co E 49<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, on July, 9, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT James J. Andrews, Co F, 4<sup>th</sup> AL Cav, captured in Florence, AL, on November 30, 1863. Andrews was born and raised on “Forks of Cypress” Plantation.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Andrew J. Armstrong, Co I, 46<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Champion Hill, MS, on May 16, 1863.

2<sup>nd</sup> LT Washington P. Bass, Co A, 15<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured in the Wilderness, VA, on May 6, 1864.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Dwight E. Bates, Jeff Davis AL Artillery, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864. Born in Springfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts.

2<sup>nd</sup> LT William H. Bedell, Co E, 1<sup>st</sup> AL Cav, Capture at McMinnville, TN, on October 23, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT William T. Bishop, Co G, 16<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Baxter, AL, on June 20, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Julien D. Bond, Co G, 59<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Petersburg, VA, on June 17, 1864.

1<sup>st</sup> LT John P. Breedlove, Co B, 4<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 4, 1863.

Capt John W. Burton, Co D, 6<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 4, 1863.

Capt Richard F. Campbell, Co I, 49<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, July 9, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Henry A. Chadbourne, Co C, 10<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 2, 1863. Born in Cumberland County, Maine

Capt Charles E. Chambers, Co B, 13<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, on July 3, 1863.

Capt John N. Chisholm, Co I, 9<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA, July 2, 1863. Died March 16, 1865.

Capt Lewis S. Chitwood, Co A, 5<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Paul H. Earl, Co G, 28<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Missionary Ridge, TN, on January 23, 1863.

Capt George H. Ellison, Co E, 3<sup>rd</sup> AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864.

Capt James W. Fannin, Co A, 61<sup>st</sup> AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864.

Major Lamar Fontaine, F&S 4<sup>th</sup> AL Cav, captured at Ringgold, GA, on November 27, 1863.

2<sup>nd</sup> LT Anthony C. Foster, Co B, 4<sup>th</sup> AL Cav, captured at Florence, AL, on November 30, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT John L. Haynes, Co I, 14<sup>th</sup> AL Inf, captured at Spotsylvania, VA, on May 12, 1864.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Alex J. Kirkman, Co D, 4<sup>th</sup> AL Cav, captured at Florence, AL, on October 30, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT William N. Ledyard, Co A, 3<sup>rd</sup> AL Inf, captured at Gettysburg, PA on July 1, 1863.

1<sup>st</sup> LT Edmund I. Mastin, Staff to Gen Kelly, captured at Charleston, TN, on December 28, 1863. Born in Huntsville, Madison County, AL

Capt James D. Meadows, Co A, 1<sup>st</sup> AL Inf, captured at Port Hudson, LA, on July 9, 1863.

Exchanged on August 3, 1864: Col William Henry Forney, 10<sup>th</sup> AL Inf.

On August 20th, 1864, when the men were shipped out, several officers purchased their way thinking they were being exchanged. Lt. Mastin, of Huntsville, Alabama gave a gold watch, which cost three hundred dollars in coin before the war. The militia home guards serving as prisoner guards were the 110<sup>th</sup> Ohio under Captain Webster and 157<sup>th</sup> Ohio under Captain James Prentiss. The prisoners were shipped on *The Crescent City* steamship. The bunks on the boat took up every inch of space with four prisoners to a bunk in the hottest month of the year. A guard was heard to say. 'A dog couldn't stand this.' The water provided was sea water condensed in the ships and issued out scalding hot in small amounts. About three/fourths of the prisoners became seasick shortly after getting on the steamship and vomited everywhere making the atmosphere even worst within the ship.

While in Port Royal Harbor, several officers attempted an escape, but most were caught. One of the detriments were sharks. The harbor and all the inlets were full of sharks. Captain George H. Ellison, 3<sup>rd</sup> Alabama Infantry from Mobile swam 11 miles in shark infested water succeeding in escaping and returned to his regiment being paroled with his command in 1865. When the ship's prisoners were unloaded an old colored woman, a stewardess on the ship, recognized Colonel Woolfolk, Kentucky Cavalry, because he was her young master at one time. She hid him in her room until the ship returned to New York, smuggled him ashore and gave him money to travel on. He made it to Canada, then to

England, and then back to the South. Captain Webster imposed crueler treatment with every attempt or escape made.

Captain Bedford, 3<sup>rd</sup> Missouri Cavalry, wrote, "We are guarded by 157<sup>th</sup> Ohio Militia and a company of deserters commanded by Captain Prentiss, an overbearing tyrannical rascal who let his men pillage our baggage and rob us. He talks to men as though they were dogs." The water was undrinkable, and the prisoners were fed old crackers and raw bacon twice a day. They experienced having no water for forty hours. The water closet was in the wheelhouse requiring the prisoners go up a ladder, through the hatch, and over the deck with only one man allowed at a time. Many were not able to stand in line or go that far and relieved themselves where they could. The Union provided no cleaning for the ship, so the smell and filth grew.

The prisoners were in the hold of the boat shut out from light and fresh air in the heat of the summer. They also had to contend with a heated steam boiler. On August 27 the guards were changed and the new regiment, 157<sup>th</sup> New York, treated them like humans. The ship was cleaned, provisions and water were given to the prisoners. These Union soldiers treated the prisoners with respect. Forty of the wounded were transferred to a Federal Military hospital in Beaufort, S. C. On the new steamer to Beaufort, baggage was rifled, and everything taken by thieving soldiers.

Finally, the *Crescent City* set sail again on its way to Charleston Harbor arriving on September 1st, 1864. Foster had the ship anchored under fire by Battery Gregg and Wagner. Lt Ford, 20<sup>th</sup> VA Cavalry, wrote, "The roaring of artillery and the explosion of shells over the city of Charleston and the walls of Sumpter may be heard and seen all day and night." On September 7th the 560 prisoners were transported to Morris Island into a one and half acre stockade formally a battlefield where many had been killed. After 17 days confinement in cramped quarters on the ship, many of the prisoners were weak and had difficulty walking the 3 miles to the new prison camp. They were now being guarded by the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Colored Troup under commander Captain Hallowell. He had full power over the prisoners and was never monitored by any higher ups. He chose to use psychological tactics to break the prisoners' morale. Hallowell was described by Colonel Shaw as a typical white officer of the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts, an abolitionist with an obsessive hatred for the South.

Nature provided gnats and mosquitoes, war delivered cannon shots from Batteries Gregg and Wagner, which were answered by Fort Moultrie, Battery Simkins, and the Confederate artillery on James' Island. These affected their sleep. Some shells burst over the camp showering the area; no prisoners were harmed even though they had to survive the agony of possible death at every moment. They were now officially the breastworks for the enemy. They were fed three crackers and one tablespoon of rice in the morning; one half pint of soup with two crackers at noon; supper consisted of two ounces of bacon and two crackers. When the rations were reduced, it resulted in various intestinal disorders and weakness. The prisoners' mail was withheld, and they were continuously harassed to take the oath of loyalty to the Union.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, 275 prisoners were taken to the steamer, *General Hooker*, and transferred to a schooner *Jennie Morton*. They were stuffed in the bowels of the boat with very little air and no room to lie down during the night. The next day they were taken back to Morris Island dashing any hopes they had of exchange. Several that hid on the boat were caught and brought back to the camp. The move had nothing to do with exchange but rather to search their quarters for tools used to escape or articles of contraband. Hallowell treated the prisoners as criminals not soldiers.

The tents sat up were made for two occupants, but four officers were made to share each tent. Straw covered sand inside the tents where the heat was intense but outside was equally intolerable. Rules didn't allow prisoners out of their tents at night no matter what the problem. After forty-one days, on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 1864, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt W. P. Callahan, 25<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry, died of starvation caused from chronic diarrhea and several more Confederates followed.

In the third week in October, after 3 months, word had finally gotten to the Yankee Provost Marshal. When it was investigated, the finding was Hallowell had not been issuing what was ordered and the starvation diet was changed. Mail began to be allowed and the Ladies Aid Society of Charleston could deliver boxes of needed articles to the prisoners. With the change of temperature, there was a need for more clothing and blankets were ordered on September 9<sup>th</sup>, but none were made available to the prisoners.

The Yankee Officer, Foster was ordered to quit shelling Charleston and remove to take a defensive position. Now he had no excuse to keep the 555 Confederate Officers for retaliation. October 21<sup>st</sup>, 1864, the prisoners were put on two schooners with the 157<sup>th</sup> New York as guards and Colonel Brown in charge. The prisoners were glad to be leaving Hallowell and Foster with hopes of better days ahead with Colonel Brown who was fair with the prisoners and they greatly appreciated his kindness.

They were moved to a two acre site at Fort Pulaski and housed in the damp and cold casements. The rations were increased to a good amount. The prisoners received their mail and any packages sent to them. In all, it was a much better environment except for the mundane prison days. Now that winter was on its way, there were not enough covering for the men to stay warm. On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1864, LT Burney, 49<sup>th</sup> GA Inf, died at the hospital. Next was LT George E. Fitzgerald of VA. Three-fourths of the men developed scurvy, diarrhea, and rheumatism. November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1864, 200 men were moved to Hilton Head, S.C. due to overcrowding. It was labeled "a sanitary move". These men were back on the beach in tents with whipping cold winter winds. Finally, they were moved into a stockade.

Under Colonel Brown, some of the very sick were allowed to be exchanged. With the very sick, some officers with connections were added to the list. On December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1864, thirty soldiers could leave for exchange. Six of the officers wrote a thank you in the Charleston *Daily Courier* to Colonel Brown for his kindness at Fort Pulaski. This caused him to be reprimanded by Major General Foster on Hilton Head Island. General Order No. 11 demanded Brown put the prisoners on half rations again with no mail privileges. Scurvy increased among

the prisoners and winter brought on pneumonia, bronchitis, and rheumatism but the surgeon was not allowed to treat the prisoners' illness. They were at the mercy of the best government of the world! Captain Dunkle, 25<sup>th</sup> VA. Inf. wrote "It indeed seemed that we were deserted by God and man, been given over to demons and devils to be tormented." 2 LT Gordon, 4<sup>th</sup> SC Cavalry wrote "It is murder of the most terrible kind and I don't think it has any parallel."

All the prisoners were going through the same illnesses and discomforts, but loneliness was the greatest misery of all. The retaliation treatment continued to claim lives. The majority looked after the sick and worked together for survival. The men were not given blankets or wood for fire to keep warm during the winter months. With so little rations, the prisoners caught rats, cats, and dogs to eat. Desperate times bring out the worst in humanity and within the group there were liars, traitors, and thieves. Those that became so weak and resolved to take the oath were considered cowards and traitors and there were ones that told the guards about fellow POW's escape plans. Seven men at Hilton Head took the oath and their comrades were outraged and considered them as the lowest form of humanity.

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1865, the *Ashland* picked up the prisoners on Fort Pulaski and sailed to Hilton Head for the rest. The men were told the retaliation was over, they had paid a high price for their loyalty to their comrades and home. Their greetings to their separated comrades were, "ain't dead yet" and "you are hard to kill." The ones not expected to survive were left to die. With all the prisoners now on the ship, the captain refused to sail out into the open waters because the ship was too small.

They were transferred to the *Illinois* and sailed into Norfolk Harbor where they sat watching prisoners sailing to Richmond to be exchanged. Doctors came onboard, checked them out and exited. Finally, they heard that the Doctors' claimed they were in too horrible condition to be exchanged and they were taken on to Fort Delaware. There were only 430 officers remaining of the original 600. The prisoners were also told that there was activity in Petersburg and prisoners could not be exchanged if there were active operations going on. Every day they were brought out for roll call and told to take the oath. Seventeen took the oath before Lee's surrender. Even after the surrender of all the Southern generals, many of the Immortals stood their ground refusing to take the oath. Though the war was over, Confederate prisoners were still held in Fort Delaware prison. By July 1865, all the prisoners that were still there were released to make their way back home on their own.

#### References:

- Murray, J. Ogden, *The Immortal Six Hundred*. The Neale Publishing Co., 1905
- Joslyn, Mauriel P. *Immortal Captives*. White Mane Publishing Company, Inc, 1996



**History on a Stick Walking Tour;** Sunday October 4, 2-4 pm;

Mark your calendar! Join us for a self-guided walking tour of downtown Huntsville's Historical Markers! Sponsored by the Huntsville Madison County Historical Society. Characters such as Howard Weeden, Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, and Isaac Schiffman will be located at each marker to tell more about the site's history. Begin the tour and pick up a map at the Harrison Brother's marker on the Courthouse Square. There are approximately 14 markers on the route. Please wear a mask when appropriate and observe social distancing guidelines. Volunteers for this event are still needed. Contact Shalis Worthy at [sworthy@hmcpl.org](mailto:sworthy@hmcpl.org) if you're interested.

When you decide to take the Stick Walking Tour you may want to consider the Marker Challenge also sponsored by the Huntsville Madison County Historical Society. The Marker Challenge encouraged visiting each historical marker in the County during the Bicentennial year. Trail 1 lists all 26 Historical markers in the downtown area, and you can check in at [www.hmchs.info/mkrs](http://www.hmchs.info/mkrs) on your phone and scan each marker to get additional information. When you finish all 26 markers, you can print off a certificate that indicates you completed the course. If you are really ambitious over the next few months, you can take all the Marker trails in the county and upon completion submit your certificate to the Early Works concession at Constitution Park and receive a free Bicentennial Coin.

It is a great family adventure and educational.

**Sulphur Creek Trestle Bridge Scenic Walk;** 19 September (Saturday) --.

From Elkmont or Athens, walk the beautiful trail on the bed of the war-time railroad bed to Sulphur Creek Trestle fort. Presentations on the battle there will be given by BrigGen (ret) John Scales. This is sponsored by the CAPT Thomas Hobbs Camp, SCV (Athens).

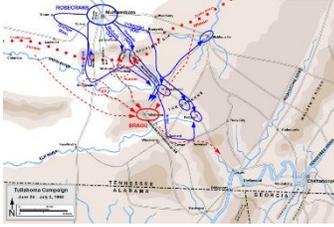
**Battle of Decatur Reenactment at ELKMONT, Alabama;** 2-4 October (Fri-Sun) --Yes, it was moved due to the CV19 restrictions in the part at Decatur where it normally occurs. Living history soldier camps and battle demonstrations of cavalry, artillery and infantry.



Nick expresses his thanks and that of his staff for the support that friends and customers have shown during the last few 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; We need attendees to sign up and pay NOW! \$80 Please Sign UP!!**

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, 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.

**2020 Remaining schedule of speakers;**

**8 October**, U.S. Grant: After Donelson, before Shiloh, *Presented by Curt Fields* Dr. Curt Fields in person, in character as General US Grant, and Mrs. Fields as Julia Grant. Back by popular demand and **NOT TO BE MISSED!** Bring friends, kids, students, and grandchildren! We were lucky to get him as a special change in calendar. Draft topic "Grant after Ft. Donelson, before Shiloh." Do wear any period dress, uniforms, hats, if you wish to add to the ambience. Abraham Lincoln, General US Grant, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, and Frederic Douglas are the principle characters that are taught in middle school civics classes and high school American history classes. If you know an American History or civics teacher or home school student, invite them. It will be a valuable experience for them and their students.

**12 November**, Phil Wirey, Morgan County Historical Society. "General James Longstreet: Local Boy Meets Gettysburg."

**2021 Schedule for Speakers** (*subject to change*)

**14 January**, John Scales, Forrest at Fort Donelson, 1862

**11 February**, Mike Acosta, Palmito Ranch: Last Battle of the War

**11 March**, Barbara Snow, Flames Along the Tennessee: Guntersville Burns

**8 April**, Kellee Blake, The Eastern Shore: Virginia Goes to War

**13 May**, Whitney Snow, Williamson R. W. Cobb: Unsung War Time Congressman

**10 June**, Delores Hydock, Soldiers in Hoop Skirts: Nursing, Spying, Serving  
**8 July**, John Thompson, Sgt. Gilbert Henderson Bates: The March that Ended the War  
**12 August**, Scott Mingus, Targeted Tracks: Cumberland Rail Road at War  
**9 September**, John Scales, Hood's Retreat from Nashville (preview field trip)  
**14 October**, Ken Rutherford, Landmines: The Hidden Horrors of War  
**11 November**, Thomas Flagel, War, Memory, and the 1913 Gettysburg Reunion

## **TVCWRT Features**

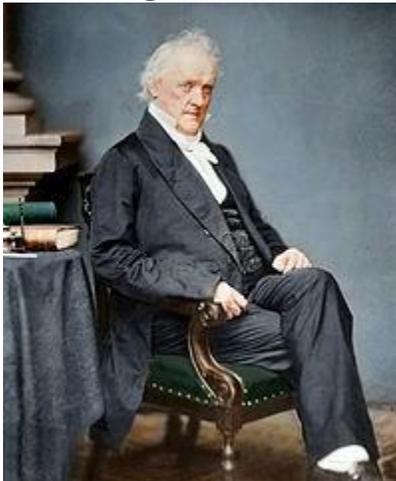
### **The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Civil War Tutorial**

#### **First Encounters, 1861**

##### **Politics**

*By Emil Posey*

As January 1 of 1861 dawned over Washington, DC, the storm so long forming was no longer on the horizon. It was upon us. Feelings were intense yet mixed on both sides of the Mason Dixon line. Many in the South believed in the righteousness and Constitutionality of their cause; many saw it as immoral and undesirable. Many in the North were quite willing to let the South secede and good riddance to them; many saw the danger and irrationality in such a path. All were being swept along by overpowering political and cultural forces. They were caught in the storm.



**President James  
Buchanan**

**March 4, 1857 – March 4,  
1861**

The late 1850s had been raucous in Congress. The partisan divide in the nation was becoming ever so stark. President Buchanan's cabinet had rotted, with some members actively preparing for (i.e., enabling) secession. He himself, a one-term president, had a weak anti-secession position – against secession, but did nothing to prevent it.

Secession of slave-holding states in the Lower South was triggered by Abraham Lincoln's election as the sixteenth President of the United States. South Carolina, the cradle of secession, went first on December 20, 1860. It was quickly followed by Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana in January 1861 and Texas in February. The newly-formed Arizona Territory followed in March, Virginia in April, and Arkansas, Tennessee, and North Carolina in May. Secession was effected by formal resolutions written and voted upon by delegates sent to the various state secession conventions.

Despite their acceptance of slavery, Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri did not secede due to divided loyalties and a combination of political maneuvering and Union military pressure. Kentucky and Missouri, however, were later accepted into the Confederacy and represented in the Confederate Congress (as well as in the US Congress).

The Confederate States of America was formed in February by a constitutional convention in Montgomery, Alabama comprised of delegates from the six states that had seceded at that point. (Texas had not yet officially seceded but would send delegates when it did.) Jefferson Davis was elected President and Alexander Hamilton Stephens became Vice President (both positions being Provisional for the time being).

Both governments faced stiff challenges in the face of powerful opposition. Secession took place over several months, with the status and prospects of remaining border states shaky. For secession to be successful, the Confederacy had to establish itself as a separate republic, which meant it had both to defeat the North's invading armies and to establish its legitimacy in the world and among his own people. For President Lincoln to succeed, he had to maintain the integrity of the nation, which meant defeating militarily the secessionist effort, and the federal government had to reconcile the gaps in various agencies and Congress occasioned by Southern sympathizers having vacated their positions. And the Union, too, had to organize for and prosecute a war, all the while swamped with political and social frictions. Meanwhile, the Confederacy had to build a viable government from scratch. Its Constitution was adopted on March 11, although it did not go into effect until February 22, 1862. It adapted the US Constitution and government structure. During this period, the Confederate capital was moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond, Virginia.

*The Indian Territory was an unorganized territory comprising much of modern Oklahoma. Ten tribes located therein, acting more or less independently, signed treaties of alliance with the Confederacy, some even allowing themselves to be annexed by the Confederacy. Other Native American groups remained loyal to the Union. The Territory was not a discrete political entity and thus was not represented in either Congress.*

## **The Executive Branches**

By resume, Jefferson Davis had the huge advantage. A West Point graduate, he served with the Army for 13 years before marrying, resigning his commission, and becoming a Mississippi planter. There he became involved in politics, being elected as one of Mississippi's at-large representatives to the US House of Representatives in 1845. He served for a term before re-entering the military during the War with Mexico. After the war he returned to Congress as a Senator from Mississippi. His Senate service was punctuated by four years as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce, and then back in the Senate

*We are about to be deprived in the Union of the rights which our fathers bequeathed to us.*

*Senator Jefferson Davis,  
when quitting the US Senate  
on January 21, 1861*

again. All in all, he had 15 years prominently placed on the national stage as a pro-slavery and states' rights advocate.

Abraham Lincoln's qualifications were not so prominent. He was a self-taught lawyer and served a single term in Congress prior to being the fledgling Republican Party's candidate for President in 1860. What national recognition he had prior to his nomination was driven essentially by his legal career and his failed campaign to challenge Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas' reelection bid.

Ironically, both had centrist attitudes. Lincoln was not an abolitionist and said so many times. Davis was not a secessionist and said so many times. Both felt strongly for the Union, although Davis believed it was constitutionally possible for a state to secede. Lincoln was against slavery, but he believed it should be contained where it was; Davis believed it was essential to the southern economy.

When it came to presidential leadership, Feather Schwartz Foster captures it well. "The balance...lies in the intangible qualities: the ones that no one notices until they are tested. Lincoln's fifty years of self-education had provided him with a capacity for broad conceptual thinking and the ability to learn from all sources. He could and would change his mind if he saw the error. He could and would be able to work with most people. He could and would grow. It would be because of his rare and elusive qualities rather than paper credentials that he ranks as our foremost president. Davis, perhaps from a lifetime of being in command, was not flexible. He would remain rigid in his philosophies and attitudes throughout his life. He had favorites, and he had implacable enemies. He would never change. His leadership was flawed, and he pales in comparison."

This is well demonstrated in the selection and management of their cabinets. President Lincoln's cabinet was more stable than President Jefferson's. President Lincoln included political adversaries, molding them into an effective team (what Doris Kearns Goodwin labeled a *Team of Rivals*). While President Davis' crew was no less cantankerous, he had an overbearing micro-management style that chafed. Moreover, with his military background, he virtually ran the military affairs side of the government, relegating his Secretary of War to little more than a "high clerk".

Both had their hands full with their congresses, but President Lincoln's skills were better; he was more adept at getting his way albeit it was often a difficult task. President Jefferson had two particular problems that hampered what abilities he had. The idea of states' rights played a much stronger role in the South and often got in the way of practicality in dealing with national problems. Along with this, President Davis had to contend with state governors that were caught up in the same mindset. In the Confederacy, political loyalties were aligned around the states, with state governors taking the lead in dealings with President Davis. Note that The Preamble to the US Constitution reads "We the People of the United States, in Order to form **a more perfect Union...**" whereas The Preamble to the Confederate Constitution reads, "We, the people of the Confederate States, **each state acting in its sovereign and independent character**, in order to form **a permanent federal government...**" [emphasis added in each]. None of the Confederacy's three federal branches—President, Congress and Judiciary—were intended to have final authority over the rights

reserved for the states. The tenor of this relationship – its underlying philosophy – would be an ongoing problem for President Davis as he worked to form his government while in the middle of prosecuting a general war.

## **The Legislative Branches**

The 37th Congress of the United States met in Washington, DC, from March 4, 1861, to March 4, 1863. By early summer of 1861 approximately one-quarter of the seats in both chambers of the US Congress in Washington, DC, were empty, abandoned by members who had defected to the Confederacy. There was much discussion early on as to what would constitute a quorum in Congress. The House could change its rules; the Senate was more tradition bound and less prone to change. As to what constituted quorums in the Senate, essentially there was tacit agreement to pragmatically pretend they had it and not discuss it.

Both chambers determined how to best disposition the delegations that absented themselves. On March 14, 1861, after much heated debate, the Senate declared the seats of six of their departed colleagues “vacant” and authorized the Secretary of the Senate to strike their names from the Senate roll. In July the Senate debated the fate of Southern members whose terms had not expired and who had not formally notified the Senate of their withdrawal, and another heated debate followed. On July 11 the Senate approved a resolution put forth by New Hampshire’s Daniel Clark (R) to “deny here, on the floor of the Senate, the right of any State to secede” by expelling ten absent Southern members “from the councils of the nation.” A few states, such as Missouri and Kentucky, elected new members to replace those who were expelled. The Unionist government in Virginia sent two senators to Capitol Hill. Many desks remained unoccupied in the Senate Chamber throughout the war years and into the Reconstruction era. The Senate continued to admit Southern members from reconstructed states through the early 1870s. The House of Representatives had more absentees to deal with, of course, but handled the matter in much the same way as the Senate.

In the Union party affiliations were numerous and shifted virtually from election cycle to election cycle. That can be seen clearly in the changes in voting strength in both chambers of Congress. Political parties were fractious, with shifting subgroups and alliances. A thumbnail survey of the more pertinent parties—

- **American Party**, formed in 1844 by the Know-Nothings, initially led by Lewis Charles Levin; an American nativist party, anti-Catholic, and opposed to the great wave of immigrants who entered the United States after 1846. Served as a vehicle for politicians opposed to the Democratic Party. Nominated former-President Millard Fillmore for president in 1856. Dissolved in 1860.

- **Constitutional Union Party** was formed by remnants of the defunct American and Whig Parties who were unwilling to join either the Republicans or the Democrats. Its members hoped to stave off Southern secession by avoiding the slavery issue
- **Democratic Party**, formed in 1828. The Democratic-Republican Party split over the choice of a successor to President James Monroe. The faction that supported many of the old Jeffersonian principles, led by Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren, became the Democratic Party. At its inception, it was the party of the “common man” and opposed the abolition of slavery. At the Democratic National Convention in 1860, the party split into two factions, thus allowing the Republican presidential candidate, Abraham Lincoln, to win the national election.
  - **Northern Democrats**, led by Stephen Douglas of Illinois, believed in popular sovereignty – letting the people of the territories vote on slavery. Douglas was their presidential candidate in 1860.
  - **Southern (or Conservative) Democrats**, led by “Fire-Eater” William Lowndes Yancey of Alabama, insisted slavery was national. John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky was their presidential candidate in 1860.
  - **Anti-Lecompton Democrats**, an offshoot of eight elected representatives from Indiana, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania in the 36th Congress who opposed the "Lecompton" constitution--one of the constitutions proposed for governing Kansas upon its admission to the union. In contrast to the Topeka, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte constitutions, the Lecompton constitution would have enshrined slavery.
  - **Independent Democrats**, an offshoot of seven Democrats, six of which represented districts in Southern states, who publicly defied their “Democrat” label.
- **Republican Party**, formed in 1854 by opponents of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, which allowed for expansion of slavery into certain US territories (discussed below) and abolitionists; known briefly as the Know Nothing Party. The party called for economic and social modernization and denounced the expansion of slavery as a great evil but did not call for ending it in the Southern states. It nominated John C. Frémont for president in 1856 (he lost to James Buchanan, Democratic Party) and Abraham Lincoln in 1860.

- **Union Party**, formed in 1860 from remnants of the defunct Free Soil Party, they were also called the Radical Abolitionists. They called for an immediate end to slavery nationwide; some of its members believed that violence was a suitable means of achieving this.



**Joseph Emerson Brown**

**Governor of Georgia**

**November 1857 to June 1865**

*Brown was a powerful Georgian politician who appealed more to the working class than the planter elite. He was an ardent Secessionist and a passionate supporter of states' right. He spoke out against the expansion of national powers at the expense of states and became a staunch opponent of President Davis – a real thorn in his side, as it were.*

Political parties didn't form in the Confederacy, but there were political factions in and among the various states. And there were the governors of each state, some of whom would prove quite difficult to deal with for President Davis.

On July 25, 1861, just days after the First Battle of Bull Run demonstrated that the war would not end quickly, the 37<sup>th</sup> Congress jointly enacted the War Aims Resolution (a.k.a. the Crittenden-Johnson Resolution, so named for its authors Representative John Crittenden (Unionist, KY-8) and Senator Andrew Johnson (D, TN). The resolution aimed at keeping the pivotal states of Missouri, Kentucky, and Maryland in the Union. The resolution said the war was being fought not for "overthrowing or interfering with the rights or established institutions of those states," but to "defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union." The war, it further stated, would end when the seceding states returned to the Union. Some of the practical effect of the resolution was undermined two weeks later when Lincoln signed a confiscation act calling for the seizure of property -- including slaves -- from the rebels. Nevertheless, until September 1862, when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, reunification of the United States --

not the abolition of slavery -- remained the official goal of the North. Representative Thaddeus Stevens (R, PA-9) and three others voted against the measure. Stevens led the way to its repeal in December 1861.

During its full tenure, the 37th Congress passed some eighteen significant pieces of legislation. Two of these were passed in 1861: the Revenue Act of 1861 on August 5, which levied the first federal income tax (explicitly temporary with a sunset date of 1866) at a flat rate of 3% on all incomes above \$800, and the Confiscation Act of 1861 on August 6, which permitted confiscation of any property used for insurrectionary purposes, including slaves. Most of its efforts in 1861 involved transitioning the nation to a war footing and overseeing the military's conduct of the war, although there was never an official declaration of war since the Union never recognized the Confederacy's legitimacy as a separate nation or government. (The Confederacy never received international recognition

either despite ongoing attempts to get it, particularly from Great Britain and France.)

The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was established on December 9, 1861 to investigate the progress of the war. Since it was formed so late in 1861, we will hold discussion of it until the next segment of this series.

The legislative branch in the Confederacy was different. It started as a Provisional Confederate Congress. A unicameral governing body, it convened February 4, 1861, in Montgomery, sitting until May 21, 1861, whereupon it moved to Richmond. It convened there on July 20. In February 1862 it was succeeded by Confederate States Congress, which would remain in existence until March 18, 1865.

The 1st and 2nd Sessions of the Provisional Congress met in Montgomery; the remaining three sessions met in Richmond. In its 1st Session, which ran through March 16, the Provisional Congress drafted a Provisional Constitution and set up a provisional government until a permanent government was installed. It also hosted a Constitutional Convention to develop a permanent Constitution that would provide the Confederacy with a permanent form of government "organized on the principles of the United States." The new Constitution would go into effect on February 22, 1862. A permanent government was elected by popular election on November 6, 1861.

The Provisional Congress initially contained Deputies drawn from the original seven Southern states to secede: 9 from Alabama, 3 from Florida, 10 from Georgia, 6 from Louisiana, 7 from Mississippi, 8 from South Carolina, and 7 from Texas. It added Delegates, eventually totaling 59, drawn from other states as they seceded or from provisional governments representing border states that did not secede (in alphabetical order): 5 from Arkansas, 10 from Kentucky, 9 from Missouri, 10 from North Carolina, 7 from Tennessee, 17 from Virginia, and 1 from the Arizona territory.

Throughout all five sessions, the Provisional Congress concerned itself with putting into place government agencies and authorities necessary to bring the Confederacy into operation and prosecute the war. This involved the passage of almost 70 public acts.

#### **What is a "Civil War"?**

*Typically, a civil war is fought between two factions vying for control of the same government to rule the same territory. This was not the case with the American Civil War. It was fought because one region of the country declared political independence. Rather than claiming to have legitimate authority over the territories of the entire United States, the Confederate government claimed only to have legitimate authority over the seceding states – a new government, establishing itself as a separate country. The war between the North and the South was fought over the matter of independence versus unionism. (For a fuller discussion, see "Was the American Civil War a 'Civil War'?", Chris Calton, Mises Institute, 05/23/2018, <https://mises.org/wire/was-american-civil-war-civil-war>.) Moreover, it does not fit neatly into the definition of either rebellion or insurrection in that the Secessionists were not attempting to overthrow an existing government or seize power.*

## The Judicial Branches

1861 was not a busy year for the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). It issued only two rulings: *Jefferson Branch Bank v. Skelly* (December 1861) – a trespass case, and *The St. Lawrence* (December 1861) – a libel case.

The most important issue in 1861 involving SCOTUS was *Ex parte Merryman* (17 F. Cas. 144, 148, C.C.D. Md. 1861). It was not a Supreme Court case, but rather a Circuit Court of Appeals case heard by Chief Justice Roger Taney (author of the Dred Scot decision of 1857) while riding circuit. Chief Justice Taney protested President Lincoln's April 27 suspension of habeas corpus from Washington, DC to Philadelphia based on the threat to the capital posed by Confederate sympathizers in Maryland in their

attempts to hamper the passage of troops through Maryland to reinforce and protect the nation's capital. Note that Congress was not in session at this time.

When a person is detained by police or other (as in this case, military) authority, a court can issue a *writ of habeas corpus* compelling the detaining authority either to show proper cause for detaining the person (e.g., by filing criminal charges) or to release the detainee. Article I, Section 9 of the Constitution says, "The privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it." (A casual reading of this codicil looks to provide a bit of wriggle room in its implementation.)

In this instance, *habeas corpus* had been suspended by one Major General George Cadwalader per President Lincoln's order. Taney ordered the arrested person, one John Merryman, a Maryland militiaman, brought before him in Baltimore for a hearing. Cadwalader refused. Taney held Cadwalader in contempt of court and issued a *writ of attachment* ordering a US Marshal to seize him and bring him before the court. The Army refused the writ; neither Cadwalader nor Merryman were produced to Taney. Taney filed a written opinion on June 1, 1861, with the US Circuit Court for the District of Maryland, in which he argued against Lincoln for granting himself easily abused powers. Taney asserted that the President was not authorized to suspend *habeas corpus*.

Taney's opinion quoted an earlier opinion by Chief Justice John Marshall in *Ex parte Bolman* (8 U.S. 75, 1807), "If at any time the public safety should require the suspension of the powers vested by this act in the courts of the United States, it is for the Legislature to say so. That question depends on political considerations, on which the Legislature is to decide. Until the legislative will be expressed, this court can only see its duty, and must obey the laws." Note that Taney's final order in Merryman never actually ordered Cadwalader (the actual defendant), the Army, Lincoln or his administration, or anyone else to release Merryman. Because the US Marshal had been unable to serve the attachment,

Under the Judiciary Act of 1789 and subsequent Acts, SCOTUS justices had the responsibility of "riding circuit" and personally hearing intermediate appeals, in addition to their caseload back in the capitol. This duty was abolished by Congress with the Judiciary Act of 1891. Wiki.

the citation for contempt was never adjudicated. At the end of the Merryman litigation, it became a nullity, as do all civil contempt orders at the termination of litigation.

Both President Lincoln's suspension of habeas corpus and Taney's judgment remain controversial. Merryman was not the last of such incidents. There were more arrests, shutdowns of newspapers, and confinements without charges or trial. Meanwhile, SCOTUS has never squarely determined if the President has any independent authority to suspend *habeas corpus*.

**One who understood what was coming—**

*You people of the South don't know what you are doing. This country will be drenched in blood, and God only knows how it will end. It is all folly, madness, a crime against civilization! You people speak so lightly of war; you don't know what you're talking about. War is a terrible thing! You mistake, too, the people of the North. They are a peaceable people but an earnest people, and they will fight, too. They are not going to let this country be destroyed without a mighty effort to save it ... Besides, where are your men and appliances of war to contend against them? The North can make a steam engine, locomotive, or railway car; hardly a yard of cloth or pair of shoes can you make. You are rushing into war with one of the most powerful, ingeniously mechanical, and determined people on Earth — right at your doors. You are bound to fail. Only in your spirit and determination are you prepared for war. In all else you are totally unprepared, with a bad cause to start with. At first you will make headway, but as your limited resources begin to fail, shut out from the markets of Europe as you will be, your cause will begin to wane. If your people will but stop and think, they must see in the end that you will surely fail.*

*William Tecumseh Sherman (still a civilian)  
to Prof. David F. Boud at the Louisiana State*

Although the Confederate States Supreme Court was never constituted, the supreme courts of the various Confederate states issued numerous decisions interpreting the Confederate Constitution. Unsurprisingly, since the Confederate Constitution was based on the United States Constitution, the Confederate State Supreme Courts often used United States Supreme Court precedents. The jurisprudence of the Marshall Court thus influenced the interpretation of the Confederate Constitution. The state courts repeatedly upheld robust powers of the Confederate Congress, especially on matters of military necessity.

As 1861 came to a close, most realized that the war was going to be a long and bloody business. Few had expected war; fewer still had foreseen the conflagration to come. Certainly, none of the Southern leadership did — none in their right mind anyway. When the end did

come, the hopes and expectations associated with secession not only would be crushed, the South would be physically and economically devastated for decades to come. The storm was upon them indeed.

*(Note: A copy of this piece with endnotes is posted on our website, [www.tvcwrt.org](http://www.tvcwrt.org), at the Education pull-down tab.)*



## **TVCWRT Civil War Digest, September 1861;**

In the East, September 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 session 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); The Vicksburg Campaign**

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.

**On August 27 Fred Forst** lead our discussion of Grant's bayou operations, January–March 1863.



*Left to Right Fred Forst, Larry Bayer, Emil Posey, Jr Ewing, Mike Kelly, Brad Tuten, Bob Hennessee, Ed Kennedy, Arley McCormick participate in the discussion regarding Grant's bayou operations. Photo by John Allen*

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**

**September 24** - Vicksburg Campaign 3 - Porter Moves South – Grand Gulf; Led by J.R Ewing

**October 22** – Vicksburg Campaign 4 –Grierson's Raid and Snyder's faint; 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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- *Lin Turner, Second Master of the Sound System*
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