

**The TVCWRT is live on Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup>.** We will configure seating to maximize your safety and health. (Note the Little Round Table has met three months in a row at the Elks with no ill effects reported.)

1. Enter north side lobby door (not the bar door) with mask on. Honor system that you do not have temperature or show symptoms, have not traveled to COVID hotspots or have a 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. Please do not go to the register to order or pay. ---NO BUFFET

And for those that prefer to watch from home; we transitioned to a “new” online presentation system called “DISCORD”. Our Technology Officer, Michael Acosta, will be glad to help register anyone in the Round Table but it must be no later than 10 March to participate in this month’s program. Only members whose annual dues are paid-up will be given access. Please contact him [michaelacosta1836@gmail.com](mailto:michaelacosta1836@gmail.com).

**Meeting set up in ballroom guidance:**

1. Keep masks on during program, before and after; wear to move around (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 the family but practice social distancing. **6 feet 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 ball room 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.*



<https://gab.com/groups/22961>



<https://mewe.com/join/tennesseevalleycivilwarroundtable>



<https://www.facebook.com/tvcwrt>

**We have expanded our Social Media formats; check them out!**

**Tennessee Valley Civil  
War Round Table  
March 2021 Newsletter**



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Since 1993  
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**Announcements: A live performance and also distributed on Discord.** All dues paying members who are interested please email our Tech/Website rep, Michael Acosta at [michaelacosta1836@gmail.com](mailto:michaelacosta1836@gmail.com) so he can send you instructions on how to set up an Discord account and get to streaming.



Mark Hubbs co-founder of the TVCWRT, historian, and author

Thursday, March 11, Mark Hubbs will reacquaint us with Captain Minié and his “*magic musket ball*” the Minié bullet history and development.

The French army officer invented the bullet that would bear his name in 1849. The Minié bullet, a cylindrical bullet with a hollow base that expanded when fired, proved lethally accurate over relatively long distances, and was soon used to devastating effect by the British army against Russian forces during the Crimean War. After the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, both Union and Confederate soldiers used the “minnie” bullet (as they called it) in their muzzle-loading rifles.



Mark Hubbs reenactor

Before the development of the Minié ball, muzzle-loading rifles were not used in combat situations because of how difficult they were to load. The ammunition used had to engage the spiral grooves, or rifling, inside the rifle barrel, it had to be equal in diameter to the barrel and shooters would have to jam the bullet into the rifle by force. In addition, the rifle tended to become even more difficult to load as gunpowder residue collected inside the barrel.

There is persistent urban legend that claims a girl standing near a Virginia battlefield in 1863 was impregnated by a stray Minié bullet that passed through the scrotum of a Union soldier before lodging in her abdomen. The origin of the (false) story was a gag article published in *The American Medical Weekly* in 1874 and is not considered the origin of Fake News.

Mark Hubbs is an eleven-year veteran of the US Army Infantry. Since leaving active duty in 1972 and retiring from the Army Reserve in 2001, he served as an historian and archaeologist for the US Army Space and Missile Defense Command at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. His work took him to several far-flung islands in the Pacific where the relics, both above and below the surface of the corral sand, remain after fierce battles of World War II including Wake Island, Kwajalein Atoll and Midway Island. His children’s books have become best sellers in Britain. He has chalked up nearly 28 years of membership in the Round Table. He cofounded the Round Table and for years was the Preservation Officer. Now we refer to him as a Gray Beard (a respected advisor).

**The next Adventure: Shiloh Battlefield 6,7,8 April:** One Hundred Fifty-nine years ago Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston was killed and Union General Ulysses S. Grant was triumphant. On the anniversary

of the battle park rangers will lead visitors through the battlefield and lecture on the scope and impact of the battle.

### **General John Bell Hood with General Nathen Bedford Forest:**

**The Retreat from Nashville, 1864;** The Round Table's annual field trip is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Details will follow but mark your calendars for another adventure into the final years of the civil war with General (R) John Scales leading and narrating a day tour. Departure is 0730 and return 1730. Specific details will follow.



**The Civil War Round Table Congress presents on Zoom this month.**

**Wednesday, March 10:** David Goetz presents ***EVER THE GRAY GHOST*** on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 7 pm EDT: Historian David Goetz explores Confederate Col. John S. Mosby's role in the Lincoln Conspiracies and the efforts to capture him and those who wanted Lincoln captured. He explores the broad and deep Confederate underground system of spies and other clandestine operators. He examines Mosby's role and that of his Rangers within the larger context of the operation, Mosby's communications system with Richmond and the importance of cover stories. Goetz then traces how Mosby Ranger Lewis Powell was drawn into clandestine work by the Confederate Secret Service and ultimately introduced to John Wilkes Booth. This fascinating story is not to be missed.

**Wednesday, March 17,** Edt Ronald S. Coddington presents ***FACES OF CIVIL WAR NURSES;*** Wednesday, March 17, EDT @ 7 pm EDT; During the American Civil War, women on both sides of the conflict, radiating patriotic fervor equal to their male counterparts, contributed to the war effort in countless ways: forming charitable societies, becoming nurses, or even marching off to war as *vivandières*, unofficial attachés to the regiments.

Ronald S. Coddington talks about the experiences of women of all ages and walks of life who provided care during the war as nurses, aid workers, and *vivandières*. Their personal narratives are as unique as fingerprints: each provides a distinct entry point into the larger social history of the brutal and bloody conflict. Using identified tintypes and *cartes de visite* of women on both sides of the war, many of them never before published, Coddington uncovers the personal histories of each intrepid individual. Following their postwar stories, he also explains how the bonds they formed continued long after the cessation of hostilities

**Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>,** Gerald Payn presents ***1863 YEAR IN REVIEW*** presents, on Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm EDT; Living historian Gerald Payn portrays Mr. Enos Foreman, Editor and Proprietor of the Wooster (Ohio) Republican and will review the significant events of 1863. So, just what does a newsman think the big news stories were? And, how big were those that appeared below the fold? You know some like the Battles of Chancellorsville and

Gettysburg and the surrender of Vicksburg. But can you easily recall the first Medal of Honor recipients, why Congress suspended habeas corpus or who sponsored the Conscription Act. The Emancipation Proclamation was just the beginning of this momentous year. It's a year full of big stories, heartbreaking reports and joyous occasions. Join us as this small-town editor takes you on a trip down memory lane and explains the "news worth knowing".

**Register** @ [www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.htm](http://www.cwrtcongress.org/speaker.htm)

**RETURNING TO THE BATTLEFIELDS:** BGES revises it's 2021 seminar and tour schedule

BGES, like so many other organizations, have been on hold since the start of the Pandemic and has not toured since March 2020. We are carefully studying the guidance from Public health, Federal and state authorities and have reset our 2021 schedule with the intention of offering two hybrid programs in April and returning to a full schedule by June. We will be cleaning up our website, revising existing registration forms and adding new ones. You can check the status of individual programs by clicking here. <http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org>

Here is our new schedule:

- April 8-11: Shiloh with Greg Mertz from Pickwick Landing, Tennessee (caravan tour)
- April 21-25: Atlanta: Dalton and Resaca w/ Bob Jenkins from Dalton, GA (two 2 day tours, caravan)
- June 2-6: Saratoga with Scott Patchan from Lake George, NY
- June 11-13: Civil War 101, Gettysburg with Dave Collins from Gettysburg (special opportunity)
- June 20-29: Custer to the Little Big Horn from Bismarck, ND with Neil Mangum
- June 25-27: Streight's Raid from Gadsden, AL with Brian Steel Wills and Norm Dasinger Jr.
- July 9-11: Reflections on Gettysburg Day 1 with Scott Hartwig from Gettysburg
- July 11-15: Retreat from Gettysburg with Parker Hills from Gettysburg
- July 16-18: Civil War 101: Manassas with Rick Britton from Manassas, VA (special opportunity)
- July 31-August 1: Days of History with Dennis, John Brown and Stonewall Jackson with Dennis Frye out of Hagerstown, MD
- August 11-14: Grierson's Raid with Tim Smith from Jackson, MS (Debut offering)
- August 17-20: The Tullahoma Campaign with Jim Ogden from Murfresboro, TN

- August 26-29: The Civil War in Northern Kentucky with Darryl Smith from Cincinnati, OH
- September 7-11: Sheridan Recovers the Valley with Scott Patchan and Gary Ecelebarger from Winchester, VA
- September 17-25: Central Plains Indian Wars with Neil Mangum from Kansas City, MO
- October 1-3: Revolutionary War 101, Boston, Lexington and Concord with Len Riedel from Concord, MA
- October 9-13: To the Bitter End, The Civil War in North Carolina 1865 with Wade Sokolosky from Fayetteville, NC
- October 13-17: Washington's Desperate Gamble, Trenton and Princeton with Gary Ecelbarger and Scott Patchan from Princeton, NJ
- October 18-23: The Overland Campaign--Pt 1 Wilderness and Spotsylvania with Gordon Rhea from Fredericksburg, VA
- October 28-31: The Seven Days with Paul Severance and Len Riedel from Richmond, VA
- November 3-7: two 2 day programs: The Hell Hole and Kennesaw Mountain with Bob Jenkins from Kennesaw, GA
- November 12-15: The Battles for New Orleans with Len Riedel from Slidell, LA
- November 16-20: Vicksburg the Grand Assaults with Tim Smith from Vicksburg, MS
- December 3-5: Hood's Tennessee Campaign, Pt 3: Nashville and the Retreat with Lee White from Franklin, TN
- December 10-12: The Battles for Fredericksburg December 1862 and May 1863 plus Salem Church with Paul Severance and Greg Mertz from Fredericksburg, VA
- January 26-30, 2022: Sherman's March to the Sea with John Derden from Atlanta, GA
- February 17-20, 2022: Vicksburg Campaign Pt. 8, Port Hudson, Baton Rouge and the Lafouche Campaign with Parker Hills from Baton Rouge, LA

BGES tours are by design small usually (but not always) between 8 and 18 people conducted in vans to improve access to inaccessible sites. Active members of BGES enjoy a discounted rate for tours.

The conduct of any given tour will be in strict accordance with the health guidance of the state and programs may be rescheduled or cancelled on short notice. Currently we are adhering to a 2-month lead time so our decisions on June programs will take place around April 1. We ask your forbearance as we flex to those dictates and the guidance of our insurance company and our own team of physicians and nurses. We will always opt on the side of public safety and health.

Deposits and payments are fully refundable with one day of notice. The money is yours, we just ask you to work with us. We hope herd immunity will allow us to return to full unrestricted operations later this year. *If you have*

previously registered that registration carries over and I will contact you by email to verify as we get closer. If you want to be sure contact me at [blueandgrayeducation@yahoo.com](mailto:blueandgrayeducation@yahoo.com). If you are interested in a program let us know and we will make sure you get the details as soon as they are available. If you have any questions, call at 434-250-9921. Len Riedel, Executive Director The Blue and Gray Education Society [www.blueandgrayeducation.org](http://www.blueandgrayeducation.org)

### **Let's go to Nick's**

*Nicks is still Nicks but with new ownership. 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)



**Terry Clevenger is a winner of a meal at Nicks'.**

### **Board Reports; Join the Board and help sustain our Round Table.**

**Finance Officer:** We appreciate and welcome our newest addition to your board, Sallyanne Cos, finance officer. She comes to us with an exciting resume for law enforcement, restaurateur, real estate sales and business operations.

**Technology Officer:** Michael Acosta, Live streaming of our Round Table sessions to our members via internet is offered through Discord with no charge. All dues paying members who are interested please email our Tech/Website rep, Michael Acosta at [michaelacosta1836@gmail.com](mailto:michaelacosta1836@gmail.com) so he can send you instructions on how to set up an account Discord and get rolling.

Last month 28 members signed up for the presentation on Discord and this time it is a live presentation but will also include Discord live streaming for members only.

**Membership Chair:** Kevin Rodrigues' Membership report: As of 28 February 2021, we have 189 members on the rolls, 3 renewals and 1 new member in February. We have 14 premium memberships with Curtis Adams becoming a Supporting Level member. 46% of our membership have paid their dues for the year. **Please pay your membership dues now.**

**Preservation Chair:** Robert Hennessee proposes General Wheelers Home for the TVCWRT 2021 preservation effort.

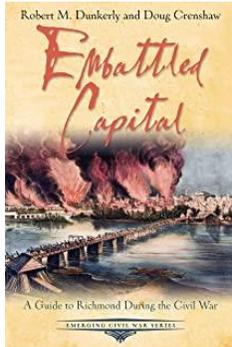
### **2021 Schedule for Speakers (subject to change)**

- 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**

### **Book Review;**



**Embattled Capitol; a guide to Richmond during the Civil War**, by Robert M. Dunkerly and Doug Crenshaw, Savas Beatie, 194 pages, Emerging Civil War Series. A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Review by Arley McCormick

*Embattled Capitol* is another installment of the Emerging Civil War series published by Savas Beatie. It is a quick, informative read. Robert M. “Bert” Dunkerly is a historian, award-winning author, and speaker who is actively involved in historic preservation and research. He works as a park ranger at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Doug Crenshaw, a

longtime volunteer for Richmond National Battlefield, leads tours of the battlefields around the former Confederate capital and is a member of the Richmond Civil War Roundtable.

Richmond encapsulates a mini history of the Confederacy complete with involvement in the slave trade, home to local units that fought the good fight, hospitals, prisons, cemeteries, and an abundance of battles and battlefields that surround the city testify to the intent to preserve the city and government. And, this guide also addresses more recent museums and landmarks including reconstruction and life after the confederacy.

Most casual and committed students of the Civil War are aware of the cry from the New York Tribune citing “On to Richmond” as a quick end to the Southern rebellion. And why not, it was the symbol of an unacceptable government; its capitol. Richmond’s story is the story of the Confederacy in a single land mark. It suffered famine, riots, possessed notorious prisons, Confederate martial law, extensive construction for defense and eventually Federal occupation. It was the home of Libby and Belle Isle Prison, industry, (Tredeger Iron Works), and the White House of the Confederacy. The dreams of an independent nation crushed by assorted reasons that capture the imagination of historians, novelists, and cinema

The authors begin with Richmond’s journey long before the Civil War and recount the February 1861 failure of Virginia to leave the Union and how Lincoln, with a call for troops to put down the rebellion, pushed Virginia into the Confederate fold and ultimately by May was its Capitol.

The authors very succinctly review the impact of war on the community as train loads of wounded and captured Union soldiers changed the landscape of Richmond after First Manassas and they continue the narrative, supported by maps, short descriptions of battles near the city and the ultimate fall to the Union Army.

Appendix C - The Most Important Convention That Has Been Assembled in This State Since the Year 1776: The Virginia Secession Convention, stands out. *Rob Orrison* lays out the Secession Convention in detail.

Anyone taking a trip to Richmond needs this guide.

**Nooks and Crannies:** Our members and friends have a perspective on the characters and events surrounding the War Between the States, and you can share your views with us. Their perspectives [www.TVCWRT.org](http://www.TVCWRT.org) under the heading of Nooks and Crannies, is collection of perspectives archived by Emil Posey.

### **TVCWRT Civil War Digest, Commanders Update; March 1862:**

March illustrated the Union Army and Navy invading Arkansas, Mississippi, Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida. There was intense interaction between small units in Missouri and Tennessee with the Confederates losing Island number 10 and a major battle at Pea Ridge Arkansas.

The Armies expanded the number of Brigadiers and combatant Army's restructured their Corps and geographical and administrative districts. A major adjustment in the Federal Army was President Lincoln's removal Maj. Gen. McClellan, as commander of the Army, yet retaining him as Commander of the Army of the Potomac and Lincoln took action to bolster the defense of Washington, D.C.

### **Political:**

William G. Brownlow was escorted to the Union lines in East Tennessee at the direction of President Davis.

An Additional Article of War was approved forbidding all officers and soldiers of the US Army from aiding in the capture and return of fugitive slaves to their disloyal owners.

The British vessel, the *Oreto*, embarked from Liverpool, England, for Nassau, the Bahamas Islands, and was sold to the Confederacy and renamed the CSS *Florida*.

### **United States Army Major General Appointments:**

Don Carlos Buell,	Irvin McDowell,
Ambrose Everett Burnside,	John Pope,
David Hunter,	Franz Sigel,

### **United States Army Brigadier General Appointment**

Samuel Ryan Curtis,	Orris Sanford Ferry,
John Cook,	John McArthur,
Thomas Alfred Davies,	John Alexander McClernand,
Granville Mellen Dodge	Robert Latimer McCook,
William Hemsley Emory,	Marsena Rudolph Patrick,
Gordon Granger,	Isaac Ferdinand Quinby,

William Starke Rosecrans,  
Andrew Jackson Smith,  
James Gallant Spears,  
Daniel Tyer,

Horatio Phillips Van Cleve,  
Lewis Wallace,  
William Harvey Lamb Wallace,  
Daniel Phineas Woodbury

Richard James Oglesby, was appointed as a scout in Saint Clair and Henry Counties, MO.

**Confederate Major General Appointments:**

Sterling Price,  
Benjamin Franklin Cheatham,  
David Rumph Jones,

John Porter McCown,  
Daniel Harvey Hill,  
Samuel Jones,

**Confederate Brigadier General Appointments:**

Alexander Sandor Asboth,  
Seth Maxwell Barton,  
Hamilton Prioleau Bee,  
John Stevens Bowen,  
Henry Beebee Carrington,  
Thomas James Churchill,  
Patrick Ronayne Cleburne,  
James Craig,  
Speed Smith Fry,  
Winfield Scott Featherston,  
Charles William Field,  
Daniel Marsh Frost,  
William Henry Forney,  
States Rights Gist,  
James Morrison Hawes,  
Benjamin Hardin Helm,  
John Bell Hood,  
Andrew Johnson,

Henry Moses Judah,  
John Alexander Logan,  
Jacob Gartner Lauman,  
Dabney Herndon Maury  
Samuel Bell Maxey,  
Henry Eustace McCulloch  
William Nelson Pendleton,  
Robert Ransom Jr.,  
John Seldon Roane,  
Albert Rust,  
Paul Jones Semmes,  
James Edwin Slaughter,  
William Duncan Smith,  
George Hume Stewart,  
William Booth Taliaferro,  
John Bordenave Villepigue,  
Lucius Marshall Walker,  
Charles Sidney Winder,

**Changes in Districts and Commands:**

**Union Actions;**

The Depts. of Kansas, of the Missouri, and part of the-Ohio, were merged into the Dept. of the Mississippi, under Maj. Gen. Henry Wager Halleck.

Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, USA, was relieved from the command of the Armies of the United States but retained command of the Army of the Potomac.

The Dept. of Western Virginia merged with the Mountain Dept and Brig. Gen. William Starke Rosecrans, USA, assumed command of the Mountain Dept. but was quickly replaced by Maj. Gen. John Charles Fremont, USA, as Brig. Gen. William S. Rosecrans, moved to the West.

Maj. Gen. Henry Wager Halleck, assumed command of the Dept. of the Mississippi.

The US Army Corps are organized in the Army of the Potomac, VA, under the following Army Corp Commanders:

- a) Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, I Army Corps
- b) Brig. Gen. Edwin Vose Sumner, II Army Corps
- c) Brig. Gen. Samuel Peter Heintzelman, III Army Corps
- d) Brig. Gen. Erasmus Darwin Keyes, IV Army Corps
- e) Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Prentiss Banks, V Army Corps

The Dept. of Florida is merged into the Dept. of the South, Maj. Gen. David Hunter commanding and included the states South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The Headquarters was located Hilton Head, SC.

Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, USA, assumed command of the 5th Army Corps and Banks was ordered to remove the majority of his command to defend Washington, DC, and the remaining portion in the Shenandoah Valley was withdrawing towards Winchester from Strasburg as Maj. Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, CSA pursued.

The Middle Military Dept. is constituted, under the command of Maj. Gen. John A. Dix, USA, headquartered at Baltimore, MD.

Brig. Gen. George Washington Morgan, USA, is assigned command the 7th Division, Army of the Ohio, and is ordered to operate against Cumberland Gap, TN; the important mountain pass connecting Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Maj. Gen. David Hunter, USA, assumed command of the Dept. of the South, i.e., South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and Brig. Gen. Louis (Ludwig) Blenker's, USA, Division is ordered to the Mountain (a.k.a. Fremont's) Dept., VA.

### **Confederate Actions;**

Gen. Robert Edward Lee, was called to Richmond, VA, by President Jefferson Davis, to act as military advisor and charged with the conduct of military operations in the Armies of the Confederacy as Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg, announced his resumption of command of the Dept. of Alabama and West Florida.

Maj. Gen. John Clifford Pemberton, assumed command of Dept. of South Carolina, Georgia, and East Florida, replacing Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, assumed command of the Army of the Mississippi, based at Jackson, TN.

Maj. Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith, CSA, assumed command in East Tennessee.

Brig. Gens. John Buchanan Floyd, CSA, and Gideon Johnson Pillow, CSA, were relieved from command by Jefferson Davis for their role at Fort Donelson, TN.

Brig. Gen. James Heyward Trapier, was assigned command the Confederate Dept. of Middle and East Florida and quickly replaced by Col. W.S. Dilworth.

President Jefferson Davis appointed Judah Benjamin Secretary of State and George W. Randolph replaced him as the Secretary of War.

Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Anderson, replaced Brig. Gen. Richard C. Gatlin, in command of the Confederate Dept. of North Carolina and Maj. Gen. Theophilus Hunter Holmes, replaces Brig. Gen. Joseph Reid Anderson, in command of the Dept. of North Carolina.

The Confederate Dept. of Henrico, under the command of Brig. Gen. John Henry Winder, is extended to embrace the city of Petersburg and vicinity, VA.

Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston is ordered to re-enforce the Army of the Peninsula, under Maj. Gen. John Bankhead Magruder.

The Confederate Armies of Kentucky and Mississippi are consolidated under the Army of the Mississippi with the following Army Corps Commands, based at Corinth, MS:

- a) Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, Commanding
- b) Gen. Piere Gustave Toutant Beauregard, 2nd in Command
- c) Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk, I Corps
- d) Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg, II Corps
- e) Maj. Gen. William Joseph Hardee, III Corps
- f) Maj. Gen. George Bibb Crittenden, Reserve Corps

Brig. Gen. William Whann Mackall replaces Maj. Gen. John Porter McCown, in the command at New Madrid Bend and at Island No. 10, Mississippi River, MO and Col. Thomas M. Jones, 27th Miss. Infantry is assigned to command Pensacola, FL.

### **Arkansas;**

The Federals conducted reconnaissance to Berryville preceding the Battle of Pea Ridge, or Elkhorn Tavern, north of Fayetteville. The result was a Union victory. Brig. Gen. Samuel Ryan Curtis, USA, opposed Brig. Gens. Earl Van Dorn, Ben McCulloch, and Albert Pike, CSA. Brig. Gen. Ben McCulloch, the second highest ranking brigadier in the Confederacy, was mortally wounded from a shot in the chest by a Federal sharpshooter, Brig. Gen. James McQueen Mckintosh, CSA, died within minutes of Brig. Gen. McCulloch, after being shot through the heart during a cavalry charge into the Federal lines, and Brig. Gen. William Yarnel Slack, CSA was mortally wounded by a musket ball in the hip, only inches from a similar wound he received at the Battle at Springfield, MO. He died on March 21. There was also action at Spring River, or Salem, AR.

### **California;**

A Federal expedition from Camp Latham to Owen's River included a skirmish with Indians (April 9th) near Bishop's Creek, in the Owen's River Valley and there were operations in the Humboldt Military Division.

### **Colorado Territory;**

A skirmish near Denver City results in the capture of 50 Confederate cavalrymen.

### **Florida;**

Amelia Island was evacuated by the Confederate forces and occupied by the Union forces and Jacksonville was occupied by Union forces from the *USS Ottawa*, under Lieut. T. H. Stevens, USN while the Federals conducted a reconnaissance on Santa Rosa Island led by Brig. Gen. Lewis G. Arnold, USA.

### **Georgia;**

There was a Federal reconnaissance up the Savannah River, to Elba Island, and another near the mouth of Saint Augustine Creek and there was brief contact on Wilmington and Whitmarsh Islands.

**Kansas;**

There was a skirmish near Aubrey, with Col. Robert H. Graham, 8 KS Infantry.

**Kentucky;**

Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman's, USA, division embarks at Paducah for the Tennessee River and action at Pound Gap placed Brig. Gen. James A. Garfield, USA, against Brig. Gen. Humphrey Marshall, CSA. Columbus was evacuated by Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk, CSA, and occupied by Brig. Gen. George W Cullum, USA.

**Mississippi;**

The month of March was busy for Corinth. Confederate troops under Gen. Albert Sidney Johnson, CSA, began arriving early in the month and later in the month the last of Gen. Albert S. Johnston's Army arrived from Murfreesboro, TN, in preparation of their defense against Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, USA, currently at Pittsburg Landing, TN.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Butler, USA, having assumed command of the Dept. of the Gulf, at Ship Island was preparing to attack New Orleans, LA.

**Missouri;**

There were skirmish near Sikeston and New Madrid prior to the siege and Brig. Gen. John Pope, USA, captured New Madrid while Maj. Gen. John P. McCown, CSA, retreated to Island No. 10 then Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, USA, with the support of union gunboats under Flag Officer Foote, USN, laid siege and captured Island No. 10.

In the northern counties of the state the Federals scouted Laclede, Wright, and Douglas Counties and Col. George E. Waring, Jr's, 4th MO Cavalry skirmished at Fox Creek (March 7th) and Mountain Grove (March 9th).

There was a skirmish at Bob's Creek, by Lieut. Col. Arnold Krekel, 1st Battalion MO Cavalry Militia, an engagement at Point Pleasant, and operations in Saline County. There were operations near Rolla with MO Cavalry and Infantry and a skirmish on Big Creek where Lieut. Col. Arnold Krekel, 1st Battalion of Cavalry killed the notorious Ted Sharp, who killed Dr. Cleveland, another notoriously bad character, at the Virginia Hotel, a few days earlier.

There was skirmishing at Mountain Grove with the MO Infantry and a skirmish in La Fayette County, Lebanon, and Lexington. Skirmishes continued near Marshall, Lebanon, Lexington, and at Riddle's Point. Federal operations in Johnson, Saint Clair, and Henry Counties, included a skirmish near Leesville by Brig. Gen. James Totten, USA.

There was an engagement at Point Pleasant and a Federal expedition to Carthage by Lieut. Col. Powell Clayton, 5th KS Cavalry and Federal operations in Johnson County, by Brig. Gen. James Totten, USA.

There was action at Riddle's Point and an affair at McKay's Farm, between Humansville and Warsaw, a skirmish at Little Santa Fe, or Independence, MO, as the 2nd KS Cavalry under Col. Robert B. Mitchell, USA, searched for the notorious guerrilla, William Clarke Quantrill and skirmished along the Post Oak and Carthage.

There were Federal expeditions from Point Pleasant, near New Madrid, to Little River, MO, by Maj. Jonas Rowalt, 7th IL Cavalry and one in Moniteau County, included a skirmish enroute, by Brig. Gen. James Totten, USA.

Skirmishes near Gouge's Mill, 15 miles east of Boonville and action at Humansville where State militia repelled the Confederates then skirmishing at the mouth of the Briar and the Blackwater near Warrensburg and also action on the Post Oak, with Brig. Gen. James Totten, USA, and skirmishing near Clinton, MO, with a detachment from the 1st IA Cavalry and one at Pink Hill with the 1st MO Cavalry.

### **New Mexico Territory;**

Albuquerque, was abandoned and the Confederates captured Cubero as Union forces under Capt. Herbert M. Enos abandoned Santa Fe resulting in Brig. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley, CSA, occupying the city.

A skirmish at Apache Canon, near Johnson's Ranch, resulted in a Union victory as Maj. John M. Chivington, 1st Colorado Infantry was withdrawing to Pigeon's Ranch, near Glorieta. Then at Glorieta, La Glorieta Pass, or Pigeon's Ranch, near Santa Fe, Col. William Read Scuny, CSA, defeated Col. John Potts Slough, USA, but an encounter near Johnson's Ranch, or Apache Canon, or Glorieta occurred when Maj. John Chivington attacked Confederate supply wagons and forced a Confederate retreat to Santa Fe.

### **North Carolina;**

The Battle of New Berne resulted in Brig. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, USA, capturing the town as Brig. Gen. Lawrence O'Bryan, CSA, retreated and the Federals continued to occupy Washington from New Berne.

There was a Federal Siege of Fort Macon, near Beaufort, by Brig. Gen. John Grubb Parke's, USA, and skirmish at Deep Gully.

### **South Carolina;**

There was a Federal reconnaissance on May River and Federal operations near Bluffton which included affairs at Buckingham, Hunting Island, and Edisto Island, SC.

### **Tennessee;**

There was an engagement at Pittsburg Landing, between Brig. Gen. George W. Cullum, USA, with Union gunboats, the *USS Lexington* and *USS Tyler*, and Confederate batteries.

Chattanooga, was occupied by the Confederates, under Brig. Gen. John B. Floyd, while there was a skirmish near Nashville, with Capt. John Hunt Morgan, CSA.

Col. James Dada Morgan's, USA, conducted operations near Nashville causing a skirmish on Granny White's Pike near Nashville, with Col. John S. Scott, CSA, 1st LA Cavalry.

There was a Federal expedition towards Purdy and operations about Crump's Landing, by Brig. Gen. Charles F. Smith, USA, a skirmish at Jacksborough, Big Creek Gap, and one near Paris with Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, USA.

The Beach Creek Bridge, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, was destroyed and a Federal expedition from Savannah to Yellow Creek, MS, resulted in the occupation of

Pittsburg Landing by Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman as well as skirmishing near Pittsburg Landing, or Black Jack Forester.

There were skirmishes at Big Creek Gap and Jacksborough with Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, CSA and operations about Gallatin by Capt. John Hunt Morgan, CSA.

The Federal reconnaissance and skirmish at Cumberland Gap against Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, CSA occurred at the same time as a skirmish at Camp Jackson.

There was a Federal reconnaissance to Agnew's Ferry with Lieut. Mortimer Neely, 5th IA Cavalry and a Federal reconnaissance from Murfreesboro to Shelbyville, Tullahoma, Manchester, and McMinnville supporting the Cumberland Gap Campaign.

Maj. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, CSA, conducted an expedition into Scott and Morgan Counties as the Federals captured Union City and Capt. William A. Haw, 5th IA Cavalry entered Paris and there was a skirmish on the Purdy Road near Adamsville with Brig. Gen. Lewis Wallace, USA.

### **Virginia;**

There was a skirmish near Pohick Church, or Occoquan with Col. Alexander Hays' 63rd PA Infantry and at Bunker Hill, north of Winchester with Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams, USA and a short time later the Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, USA advanced to Centreville and Manassas.

The Confederates withdrew their forces from Evansport, Dumfries, Manassas, and Occoquan under Gen. Joseph Eggleston Johnston, CSA while there was skirmishing near Winchester between Brig. Gen. Alpheus S. Williams, USA, and Lieut. Col. Turner Ashby, CSA Cavalry.

Union forces occupied Leesburg, VA, as skirmishing broke out at Sangster's Station and Burke's Station. A skirmish at Stephenson's Station, near Winchester, resulted in Confederate forces under Maj. Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, CSA, withdrawing and Union forces under Brig. Gen. George Stoneman, USA occupied the area.

The Federals moved near Cedar Run as The Army of the Potomac began to embark from Alexandria on navy transports for the Virginia Peninsula; destination Fortress Monroe, near Hampton.

There was skirmishing at Middletown and Strasburg and Maj. Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, CSA, caused Brig. Gen. James Shields, USA to retreat and conduct reconnaissance to Gainesville, about 9 miles from Manassas Junction, where Brig. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, USA and a skirmish at Kernstown where Brig. Gen. James Shields, USA, encountered Maj. Gen. Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, CSA.

The Battle of Kernstown, VA, about 3 miles south of Winchester officially begins Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign, resulted in a Confederate withdrawal from the vicinity of Brig. Gen. James Shields, USA. This obscure battle effectively froze Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell, USA, in Washington, and Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, USA, at Harper's Ferry, WV, resulting in their failure to reinforce Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign.

There was a skirmish at Mount Jackson and operations in the vicinity of Middleburg and White Plains, as Col. Jonathan W. Geary USA, 28<sup>th</sup> PA, discovered burnt bridges and cut telegraph wires. Operations on the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, with

affairs at the Bealeton and the Rappahannock Stations, resulted in Brig. Gen. Oliver O. Howard, USA. occupying Shipping Point.

### **West Virginia;**

Brig. Gen. Frederick West Lander, USA, died at Camp Chase, Paw Paw, from camp fever (dysentery) contracted the previous weeks while moving his command in the Shenandoah Valley, VA.

A skirmish at Martinsburg resulted in Federal occupation and skirmishes were also reported at Elk Mountain and Philippi.

### **Navy Operations;**

The *USS Monitor*, under tow by the tugboat *Seth Law*, left New York Harbor, NY accompanied by the Federal vessels, *USS Currituck*, and the *USS Sachem*.

The US and CSA Navy engaged the 1st ironclads, the *USS Monitor*, and the *CSS Merrimac* (formerly the *Merrimac*). It was a draw but the Confederate iron-clad *Virginia* followed the US frigate *Congress* and the sloop of war *Cumberland* and destroyed them and severely damaged the warship, *USS Minnesota*.

There was a Naval engagement at Mosquito Inlet, FL, with the Union gunboats: *Henry Andreq Penguin* and the *Union*.

**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 Civil War Tutorial; Part IV: Reality Sets In; 1862 Politics** by Emil Posey

No one on either side had wanted or expected this war. When the opening salvos were fired, most had expected it to be over quickly. They were wrong. As the first campaign season wound down and field forces went into winter quarters, it was becoming obvious to most that this was going to be a longer and more brutal conflict than anticipated. Events in 1862 would confirm that mindset.

When 1862 dawned, things seemed to be looking up for the South. The year started quietly as the North concentrated on training and organizing its inexperienced troops, and the South elected to conserve its strength for the coming spring. Once the winter was over, though, the war resumed in earnest.

To win, the Confederacy had merely to survive; for the Union to win, it had to overcome. So far, the Confederacy was holding its own on the battlefield, whereas the Union war strategy was immature. Unfortunately, for the South this was more of a façade than real. It was stretched thin militarily trying to protect its long land border with the Union; there was precious little navy to confront the Union's and stem the growing blockade, protect the coastline, and contest the riverways; its industrial and fiscal resources were insufficient for a long war; its state governors were quarrelsome and myopically protective of their state's rights and prerogatives;<sup>1</sup> and recognition by foreign powers (Great Britain and France) was proving elusive. The stage was set for a long, tough year.

## **The Executive Branches**

### Managing the War

The famous military philosopher Carl von Clausewitz said war is an extension of politics. The one certainly flows from the other, and when a president becomes enmeshed in both, things rarely turn out for the best.

Planning and implementing national military strategy occupied the majority of Union President Abraham Lincoln's and Confederacy President Jefferson Davis' time. The US Constitution makes the President, a civilian, the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, and so it was with the Confederate Constitution, which was essentially a copy of the US Constitution with a few, albeit significant, changes.

The differences in their management styles in dealing with the prosecution of the war were distinct. Lincoln had only rudimentary military experience, his service having been limited to a brief stint (without seeing combat) as a volunteer with the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War in 1832. Davis, on the other hand, had extensive military experience. While having served in the Black Hawk War as well, he also had commanded the Mississippi Rifles,<sup>2</sup> a locally raised regiment, in the War with Mexico, leading it valiantly in the battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista. He had resigned his elected position as a Representative from Mississippi in the US Congress to join this regiment and was soon elected its Colonel. After the war, he refused a promotion to brigadier general and returned to Congress as an elected Senator from Mississippi. He went on to serve as US Secretary of War 1853-1857. His experience turned into a disadvantage for him as president of the Confederacy, whereas Lincoln's inexperience turned into an advantage. Davis exhibited personality traits early on that hampered his performance as a war-time Commander in Chief. Lincoln excelled at dealing with people and learned from his mistakes.

When the war began, the Confederacy had no army to speak of. There were state militias, but they had to be formed into a national warfighting force. "He built up a government, fielded an army, developed a command structure, and formulated a military strategy in an amazingly short time."<sup>3</sup> Elected Provisional President by the Confederate Provisional Congress on February 18, 1861, he had only five months until the First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas (Virginia, July 21) and one additional before the Battle of Wilson's Creek (Missouri, August 10). Note that these were significant opening battles on opposite ends of the Confederacy.

Davis would have preferred a senior military command in the Confederate Army rather than the presidency. He wanted to participate in field operations directly but was constrained by his responsibilities as president. As Commander in Chief, he appointed the senior Confederate commanders. Of the five in the first group of "four stars", two proved problematic, chosen more for their past relationship with Davis than on the basis of their military acumen.<sup>4</sup> Note also that Davis did not formally appoint a General in Chief until he did so with General Robert E. Lee on February 6, 1865. Up to that time, he fulfilled that role himself albeit he did use Lee as his principal military advisor officially and unofficially for most of the war.<sup>5</sup>

More problematic, Davis was a micromanager, which led him to often bypass his Secretary of War when making decisions and communicating with senior officers in the field.<sup>6</sup> This problem was exacerbated by, lacking a General in Chief, there was no single point of contact between field commanders and Davis. The only senior field commander

he did not micromanage (because he would not let Davis do so) was Lee. The trust and faith Davis showed in Lee was not shown to anyone else in the Confederate military or government. Micromanagement was not limited to his War Department. It extended throughout his Administration and would remain a problem throughout the war.<sup>7</sup> And, finally, Davis held grudges. He showed great loyalty to A. S. Johnston and Lee, for example, but would never trust Beauregard or J. E. Johnston after First Bull Run/Manassas.

Lincoln as Commander in Chief started in better circumstances. He inherited a fully functional government and a standing military comprising both a Regular Army and the various state militias. Initially, he changed nothing in the structure of either the Executive Branch or the upper echelons of command of the army or navy. Like most, he expected a short war brought to conclusion with quick, decisive military action. Like most, he was sadly surprised when it did not occur.

Lincoln's central reaction to the Union army's failures in Virginia in 1861 was to look for aggressive field commanders. When 1862 dawned, he still had not found them. Given the crop of poor and mediocre, slow and cautious general officers the Union had as field commanders early on, micro-management of his generals seemed necessary in his anxiety to prosecute the war vigorously. His fear of losing the capitol to a sudden Confederate thrust drove him to tightly manage planning and mission assignments of Union forces throughout Virginia. This proved critically, if not fatally, counterproductive.

Davis seemed never to understand the downsides of his management style. Lincoln, on the other hand, learned from his mistakes.<sup>8</sup> By the middle of the year, Lincoln would learn to allow his generals more freedom to run their campaigns at the operational level. Moreover, he became dismayed at the difficulties of coordinating several major commands and eventually (after the failure of the Peninsula and the Valley campaigns) backed off and henceforth refrain from managing the operations of field armies. More Union debacles were to come, though, and his search for a competent, aggressive commander in the East continued into 1863.<sup>9</sup>

### Internal Relations

Davis was a Mississippi slave-owner born in Kentucky who had won the hearts of Deep South planters by serving with distinction in the Mexican War and championing the spread of slavery as a member of both the US House and Senate, and as an innovative Secretary of War under Democratic President Franklin Pierce. A talented officer and a smart politician, he was enormously difficult to work with. As president of the Confederacy, he quickly alienated his subordinates. He surrounded himself with mediocre minds who would never challenge his decisions. As the war progressed and prospects dimmed, he became increasingly abrasive and stubborn, unable to forge the meaningful relationships and popular support needed to govern a republic.<sup>10</sup>

The Southern states seceded because they believed many of their rights were being usurped by the federal government. They were suspicious of any act that seemed to weaken the influence of the states, and believed the states possessed the right to judge whether federal actions were constitutional. One area in which this manifested itself after secession was the raising of an army to defend the Confederacy and how it would be deployed vis-à-vis the maintaining of strong state militias for state control and

defense. This made central direction of Confederacy affairs problematic and led to serious quarrels over questions like conscription, local defense, and finance.<sup>11</sup> Lincoln's relationships with Union governors were comparatively smooth albeit not without conflict and disagreement. This was driven more by factional politics – between and within the Radical Republicans, moderate Republicans (such as Lincoln himself), and the Democrats – and less with governors over issues associated with states' rights.

A striking feature of Confederate politics was the absence of political parties. Unlike the Union, which benefitted from a vigorous competition between the various parties and their factions, the Confederacy enjoyed no such organized debate. The prominent issues of the pre-war period (secession and nation-forming) had been supplanted by 1862 by war-related controversies.

Pre-secession heritage parties disappeared and were replaced “nationally” by wartime political unity. With secession declared and war incurred, there were few major issues to define elections and campaigns.<sup>12</sup>

Not so with the states. The Confederate states governors could be a touchy bunch with a tendency to go their separate ways with little apparent desire to cooperate with the central government or each other. This was all wrapped up in the Confederacy's states' rights ideology. There were times it could be rationalized to make sense; there were too many times when it could not.

The most famous example of state obstructionism is Governor Joseph Brown of Georgia. Throughout the war, Brown insisted on putting the needs of his own state above the needs of the Confederacy and denying Confederate field forces critical resources. In the spring of 1861, for example, he refused to allow people who volunteered directly for the Confederate army to take any weapons out of the state, even their own guns. In the first battle of the war, Bull Run/Manassas, Georgia troops were withheld because Brown was not permitted to appoint their commanding officers. Later, in order to keep Georgians at home, he exempted over 15,000 from the draft. To extreme conservatives, Brown's actions were in keeping with true states' rights ideology, but to Confederate leaders like Davis, Brown's actions were profoundly selfish and destructive.<sup>13</sup>

Lincoln, on the other hand, was an effective national and partisan leader. Though his Republican Party was often deeply divided over the fate of slavery and the prosecution of the war, Lincoln maintained control of the party apparatus (even achieving re-nomination and re-election in 1864 in the face on internal challenges, political setbacks, and military defeats) and pursued a moderate course that eventually proved successful. He was an astute observer of public opinion, he worked well with others, and he inspired loyalty and hard work in his subordinates. Instead of filling his cabinet with mediocrities (as Davis had largely done), Lincoln surrounded himself with the top politicians of the day, Democrats and Republicans, skeptical moderates and



*Joseph Emerson Brown*

*Governor of Georgia*

*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' rights. He spoke out against the expansion of national powers at the expense of states and became a staunch opponent of Davis – a real thorn in his side, as it were.*

wide-eyed Radicals. He encouraged honesty and frank discussion among his policy-makers, leading to productive cabinet meetings and sound decision-making.<sup>14</sup>

### The Sioux Uprising

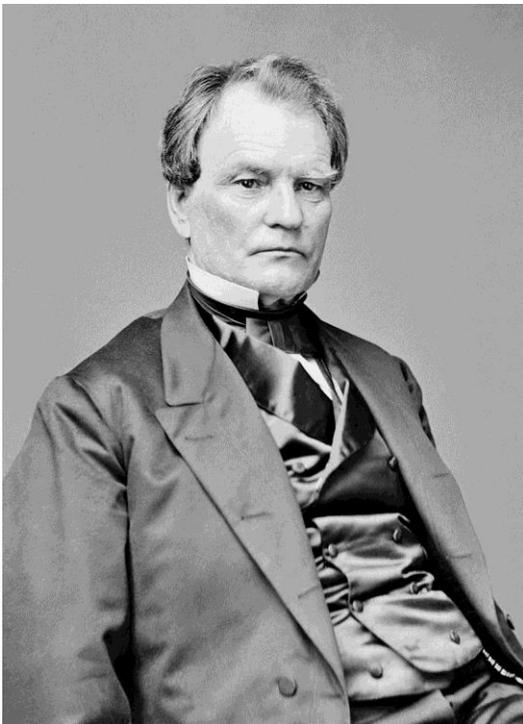
A particularly vexing problem for Lincoln arose in the northwest: the Sioux Uprising of 1862. There are numerous reasons for it, mainly revolving around the fact that government agents were extremely dishonest in their treatment of the Sioux Indians. The Sioux took it to a point, but it ultimately led to violence.

The Sioux had surrendered a large part of their land to the United States, in all some 28 million acres through different treaties, 21 million of those coming from the Traverse des Sioux Treaty of 1851. After all these treaties, they were left with two relatively small reservations for the 7,000 of them that lived in Minnesota.

The Sioux had agreed to purchase goods from the fur traders. They would do this before their government annuities arrived. When the payments did come, the fur traders got their hands on most of the money, leaving the Sioux with virtually nothing. This caused a large part of their frustration. Then there was the fact that the government was rarely on time with their payments. This was especially true in 1862. The Sioux were starving that summer, and Washington was behind in their annuity

payments. Coinciding with the Civil War, the Sioux knew that the majority of the white men of Minnesota were off fighting. So, if they did attack, they would be fighting a depleted enemy. For these reasons, the Sioux lashed out in the late summer and fall of 1862. They were being taken for fools by the government, and enough was enough.

The uprising lasted 37 days and claimed the lives of over 500 Americans and about 60 Sioux, including a mass execution of Sioux. There were actually 303 sentenced to death, but Lincoln carefully worked through the transcripts to sort out those who were guilty of serious crimes. Ultimately, he commuted the sentences of 265 defendants, and only 39 of the original 303 were executed. On December 26, 1862 in Mankato, Minnesota, these 39 Sioux Indians were hung, the largest mass execution in American history.<sup>15</sup>



*Benjamin Franklin "Bluff" Wade*

*US Senator for Ohio, 1851 to 1869*

*Chair of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War.*

*Dec 1861 (formation) - May 1865 (dissolution)*

### **The Legislative Branches**

The 1861 withdrawal of the Southern delegations resulted in the chambers of the US Congress being half-empty. However, with Southern Democrats no longer blocking Northern interests, the 37th Congress in spring and

summer 1862 passed twelve major pieces of legislation, including three of the most far reaching Acts from the second half of the nineteenth century: the Homestead Act, which provided to applicants free farmland west of the Mississippi River; the Morrill Land-Grant College Act, which bestowed land for states to finance the establishment of agricultural colleges; and the Pacific Railroad Act, which led to the construction of a transcontinental railroad.<sup>16</sup>

Union Congressional oversight of the war was accomplished by the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War. Started on December 9, 1861, its purpose was to investigate the progress of the war, but it became a forum for generals who, finding themselves accused of failure, put the blame on others. The committee was dominated by Radical Republicans whose aggressive views often clashed with the strategies favored by Lincoln. Meetings were held in secret, but reports were issued from time to time.<sup>17</sup> The committee was chaired by Senator Benjamin Wade. A Radical Republican from Ohio, he was highly critical of Lincoln.

During the 37th and the 38th Congresses, the committee investigated every aspect of Union military operations, with special attention to finding the men who were guilty of military defeats. Its members assumed an inevitable Union victory and considered failure to indicate evil motivations or personal failures. They were skeptical of military science and, especially, West Point, many alumni of which were leaders in the Confederate army. The committee much preferred political generals with a known political record. It ended up endorsing incompetent but politically-loyal generals. The committee is considered to be among the harshest congressional investigating committees in history, more inclined to conducting witch-hunts than fair inquiries.<sup>18</sup>

### Conscription

Conscription stirred up the most fuss of any legislative activity on either side. The war was bloodier and longer lasting than had been foreseen, and casualties began to outpace enlistments. To maintain the ranks, drafting men for service became necessary in 1862 for both the North and the South.

The Union started slowly with the Militia Act of 1862. Enacted July 17, it authorized a militia draft within each state when the state could not meet its quota with volunteers. The Act, for the first time, also allowed African-Americans to serve in the militias as soldiers and war laborers. Previously, only white male citizens were permitted to participate in the militias. (There were exceptions, Louisiana, for example, which had a black militia unit in New Orleans.<sup>19</sup>)

The Act was controversial. It was praised by abolitionists as a first step toward equality because it stipulated that black recruits could be soldiers or manual laborers. However, the Act discriminated in pay and other areas stemming from the legislation envisioning blacks mainly as military laborers freeing up whites for combat. Many regiments struggled for equal pay, some refusing any money until June 15, 1864, when Congress deleted that portion of the Militia Act and granted equal pay for all black soldiers. The state-administered system set up by the Act failed in practice and in 1863 Congress passed the Enrollment Act, the first genuine national conscription law in the North.

Conscription in the Confederacy polarized its public. In the early months of the war, Southern white men volunteered in droves, but by April 1862 the realities of a long,

expansive conflict and unprecedented mortality rate hurt recruitment, forcing the Confederate Congress to turn to coercion. Conscription was enormously unpopular from the start, not only because young white men were becoming less eager to leave their families and die in battle, but also because a major motive of the rebellion had been fear of centralized authority. Under the United States government, Americans had had little, if any, experience with federal power. Making war and delivering the mail was about it. Secession and the start of civil war had been based in no small degree on a *theoretical future* growth of central power.

The Confederate draft was the first in American history and came as quite a shock. Forcing its citizens to fight and die, Southerners understood, is the ultimate exercise of government authority. Sensing their constituents' displeasure with the "horror of conscription" and the frightening expansion of centralized power, many candidates running for seats in the 2nd Confederate Congress condemned the policy. Some did so on the grounds that it detracted from state and local defense efforts, while others argued that it placed too much power in the hands of Davis.

The First Conscription Act, passed April 26, 1862, made any white male between 18 to 35 years old liable to three years of military service. On September 27, 1862, the Second extended the age limit to 45 years; the Third, passed February 17, 1864, changed this to 17 to 50 years old, for service of an unlimited period.

Originally, anyone drafted could hire a substitute, a provision that was heavily criticized, and abolished on December 28, 1863. In addition, an act of April 21, 1862, created reserved occupations excluded from the draft. On October 11, 1862, a new exemption act, soon dubbed the *Twenty Negro Law*, was approved. It exempted from military service one white overseer for every 20 slaves on a plantation, "to secure the proper police of the country." This would allow enough white males to stay home to defend against a so-called domestic insurrection. Poor whites were unnerved, perceiving that the law made the conflict "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight." The Davis Administration argued that the law was necessary to keep up agricultural production and to prevent slave revolts.<sup>20</sup>

The debate over conscription reflected the political struggle in the Confederacy between those who saw it as another example of the threat to freedom posed by the centralization of power, the suspension of Habeas Corpus being another. Their opponents viewed a strong central executive and these measures as essential to preserve Southern independence.

Several states passed legislation against it; in addition to simply hiding, draftees violently resisted conscription officers of the Confederate government, mirroring similar disputes in the North, most famously the New York City draft riots in July 1863. By 1864, the Southern draft had become virtually unenforceable.<sup>21</sup>

Still, it relieved the army's manpower problem at a critical time. Boosted by the Act, the total number of men in the Confederate armies increased from 325,000 at the beginning of 1862 to 450,000 at the end of the year.<sup>22</sup>

### Suspension of the Writ of Habeas Corpus

The suspension of habeas corpus allows the government to hold a prisoner indefinitely without presenting to a court the evidentiary reasons for the arrest. The US Constitution, Article 1, Section 9, provides, "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.” This was carried over verbatim into the Confederate Constitution.<sup>23</sup>

*An in-chambers opinion is written by an individual Justice (as opposed to being heard by the entire court) to dispose of an application by a party for interim relief, e.g., for a stay of the judgment of the court below, for vacation of a stay, or for a temporary injunction.*

Lincoln first suspended it on April 27, 1861, shortly after the war started, enabling military commanders to arrest and detain individuals indefinitely in areas where martial law had been imposed. He was eventually challenged in the courts. Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney rendered *Ex parte Merryman*, an in-chambers opinion arguing that only Congress, not the president, had the authority to suspend the writ. Lincoln ignored the opinion. In 1863 Congress passed a bill essentially holding the president harmless for suspending the writ,

and so it remained for the rest of the war.

The Confederate Congress authorized Davis to suspend habeas corpus from February 1862 until February 1863 and again from February 1864 until August 1864, and afterward authorized Davis to suspend the writ as he saw fit. The suspension of the writ of habeas corpus allowed the government to hold a prisoner indefinitely without presenting to a court the evidentiary reasons for the arrest. Additionally, civilians found their travel restricted by the Confederate government in the autumn of 1862 when Congress created a civilian pass system. Though promptly issuing exemptions to its own members, Congress forbade civilian travel without the approval of national authorities. The Confederate government also prohibited the sale of liquor in 1862. Although the government explained those measures with appeals to order, unity, and preventing desertion in the army, the restrictions also represented the efforts of the Confederate government to enforce social policy outside the realm of military necessity – totally counter to the Confederacy’s states’ rights ideology.<sup>24</sup>

## **The Judicial Branches**

With only two rulings issued, 1861 had not been a busy year for the US Supreme Court. Not so with 1862, during which it considered 40 cases.

One case in particular had significant importance as to how the war would be prosecuted: *Prize Cases*, 67 U.S. 635 (1862). With the secession of several states from the Union, Lincoln did not ask Congress to declare war on the Confederacy. He believed this would be tantamount to recognizing it as a nation. Instead, he instituted a naval blockade, which had important legal ramifications because nations do not blockade their own ports; rather, they close them. By ordering a blockade, Lincoln essentially declared the Confederate states to be belligerents instead of insurrectionists. The blockade resulted in the capture of dozens of American and foreign ships, both those attempting to run the blockade and smuggle goods and munitions to the South as well as those attempting to smuggle exports from the South.

*Admiralty law or maritime law is a body of law that governs nautical issues and private maritime disputes. Admiralty law consists of both domestic law on maritime activities, and private international law governing the relationships between private parties operating or using ocean-going ships.*

The question before the court dealt with the seized ships, but it reached widely into the legality of wars against acts of belligerence, whether or not officially declared. It rose through the lower Federal courts through lawsuits by Northern merchants whose ships were seized by Union warships enforcing the blockade. In admiralty law, a ship captured during war may be kept as a prize. If there is no formal war, capturing ships and impounding them is piracy. Plaintiffs contended that the blockade was not legal because a war had not been declared, thus making it perfectly legal to run the blockade and sell war materiel in the blockaded Southern ports.

On March 10, 1863, the Court ruled that the states of the Southern Confederacy were in insurrection and at war against the United States by the firing upon Fort Sumter and the Privateering Act proclaimed by Confederate President Davis. The Supreme Court found by a five to four majority that the decision by Lincoln to impose a blockade to be constitutional. While only Congress could declare war, the chief executive did have a lawful responsibility to take measures to resist insurrection. The court thus sanctioned Lincoln's exercise of emergency powers prior to the congressional authorization of those powers.<sup>25</sup>

### **Emancipation**

Of all the drama in 1862, emancipation was the big story of the year. The most dramatic political changes in the South were experienced by enslaved blacks. Even before the war began, slaves were fleeing to the North. The flight from bondage intensified after the war began and grew in intensity as the war continued, with slaves now fleeing bondage for Union forts and forces. This put pressure on the Lincoln Administration to re-examine its war aims and policies. Likewise, slave resistance and escape forced the South to fight in essence a two-front war: one against the Union, the other against their own enslaved population. The strain of slaves' restiveness and, when Union soldiers are nearby, even defiance prompted the Confederate Congress to pass the September 1862 plantation exemption (the *Twenty Negro Act* mentioned above in connection with conscription) and forced Davis and state governors to direct scarce troops and resources to protect its citizens and enforce slave laws.

Today, many regard the Emancipation Proclamation signed by Lincoln on January 1, 1863, as a triumph for human equality, but that's not how he sold it to his contemporaries. The Union strategy depended crucially on slaveholding border states remaining loyal to the Union. Rather than sell the Proclamation as a principled antislavery measure, Lincoln promoted it as a way of depriving the Confederacy of much-needed manpower. Areas that were exempted included not only non-seceding states like Kentucky and Maryland, but also portions of Louisiana and Virginia that were then under Union control. Lincoln also exempted Tennessee, which was partially occupied by Union troops and, he hoped, would soon be re-incorporated into the Union. All slaves in the United States were not finally freed until the passage by Congress of the 13th Amendment on January 31, 1865 and ratified on December 6, 1865.

This brings us to the heart of the longest-lived conundrum of the Civil War: Was it fought by the North to abolish slavery or was that something that just happened along the way?

Lincoln's position on abolition and what to do with freed slaves matured during the war, shifting from a firm national strategy in the beginning of maintaining the Union

even if it meant the continuation of slavery, to relocation of freed slaves to Liberia in Africa, to complete abolition via the XIII Amendment, which he championed through Congress.

Certainly, abolition in one manner or another was an underlying theme for many. Consider:

- Major General John Charles Frémont, then the third highest ranking Union general, issued his (in)famous proclamation of martial law in Missouri on August 30, 1861. It included the following passage: “All persons who shall be taken with arms in their hands within these lines shall be tried by court-martial, and, if found guilty, will be shot. The property, real and personal, of all persons in the State of Missouri who shall take up arms against the United States, and who shall be directly proven to have taken active part with their enemies in the field, is declared to be confiscated to the public use; *and their slaves, if any they have, are hereby declared free.*” (Emphasis added.) Lincoln considered this emancipation, limited as it was, to be outside of Frémont’s authority and asked that he “as of his own motion” modify his proclamation and edit that paragraph. Frémont refused to do so unless directly ordered. Lincoln did so publicly and subsequently reassigned Frémont.<sup>26</sup>
- While in command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, Major General Benjamin Franklin Butler declined to return fugitive slaves who had come within his lines to their owners. He argued that slaves used as laborers for building fortifications and other military activities could be considered contraband of war. He made no mention of emancipation, but they were not returned to their owners. They were treated as escapees. Congress in effect registered its approval of Butler's policy when it passed the First Confiscation Act, passed on August 6, 1861.<sup>27</sup>
- Major General John G. Foster, Commander of the 18th Army Corps, captured the Confederate fortifications on Roanoke Island off North Carolina in 1862. He classified the slaves living there as contraband and, following Butler’s precedent at Fort Monroe in 1861, did not return them to Confederate slaveholders.
- The Confiscation Act of 1862, which allowed for seizure of all Confederate property, including slaves, whether or not it had been used to support the rebellion.<sup>28</sup>
- Even the Emancipation Proclamation itself.

These examples were not so much driven by desire to free slaves as they were efforts to interdict the supply of labor in the Secesh states, i.e., slaves. Also, these tied up soldiers and civilians guarding against slave uprisings and chasing runaways. Always, though, there was a growing undercurrent of emancipation as a moral imperative.

Lincoln, meanwhile, was meeting with men from the border states, especially Kentucky, hoping to persuade them to agree to a compensated emancipation. Over the

course of these encounters, it became clear to him that the broad Unionist sentiment he thought existed in the South was a chimera.

When talks with the Kentucky delegates broke off in July, he drafted the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. In its final form, the Proclamation would free the slaves in areas that were not under Union control as of January 1, 1863, when it went into effect. This meant it did not apply in the border states or places such as New Orleans, which were already under Union military occupation by that time. Lincoln realized that such a move would strike a serious blow militarily to the Confederates, who relied on bondsmen for the bulk of their labor during the war, by both demoralizing white Southerners and giving additional incentive to slaves to run away.

However, the summer of 1862 had been a bleak one for Federal forces, and Lincoln wanted neither to issue the proclamation when the North appeared to be losing nor for other countries to consider it an act of desperation. So, he awaited a victory. Antietam/Sharpsburg, while technically a draw, was close enough. Lincoln claimed it as a Union win and announced the proclamation.

This was an important turning point. The war was now a contest not just about saving the Union but also about freeing four million slaves.

The importance of the Emancipation Proclamation cannot be overstated. It did not liberate any slave per se, but it freed some of them legally and politically. They were still slaves in secessionist-controlled territory, which at this point was still most of the Confederacy, but as they escaped and made their way to Union lines, and as Union lines made their way to them, growing numbers achieved freedom. The extent to which their freedom improved their lot is grist for discussion in and of itself, but as an aspiration, the allure of freedom and thus the promise of the Emancipation Proclamation, was overwhelming. Moreover, it was a significant blow to the Confederacy. It changed the tone of the war. Heretofore, the war at its core was about maintaining the Union; eliminating slavery was not a national goal. Henceforth, it became a popularly accepted objective, particularly from the Southern point of view. It meant that if the secession failed, the South — culturally, socially, politically, and economically — would change. Emancipated slaves would not be returned to slavery and the desire for freedom on the part of those that still were enslaved would stiffen. In fact, this was a key milestone on the road to abolishment of slavery altogether in the United States by the passage of the XIII Amendment in 1865.

The goal of the Confederate States of America was clear: a new, independent nation based on deep racial and class inequalities. The form of government adopted — a loose confederacy — had already proven a failure in American history. The Articles of Confederation, drafted by the Second Continental Congress in November 1777 and in effect until September 1788 (*America 1.0*, as it were), had been woefully inadequate for the needs of the young nation. The Founding Fathers replaced it with a Constitution, creating a new central government supreme above the states. Secessionists in 1861, obsessed with state sovereignty and in a furious hurry, returned to the concept of confederacy for their new government, a decision that would prove disastrous.<sup>29</sup>

By the end of the year, the war had been going on for over twenty months. The naive exuberance with which both sides started had given way to grim reality. Hope remained among Southern leadership that their bid for independence still could succeed, but the feel of the war had changed. The strain on Southern resources was beginning to show,

while Northern resources, channeled by Lincoln's resolute determination, were coming to bear. One could feel the South's fortunes ebbing. Unease, even desperation, rippled across its population.

One thing was clear. The South's antebellum culture was changing irrevocably. Slave aspirations for freedom had been given new strength. Slavery, as an institution and as a way of life, was undergoing a fundamental change. Win, lose, or draw, that genie was out and was not going back into the bottle.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> "Jefferson Davis and the Confederate Governors," Arthur Gordon Daniel, North Texas State College, Denton, Texas; June 1959, iv.

<sup>2</sup> The ancestor of today's 155th Infantry Regiment, Mississippi Army National Guard.

<sup>3</sup> "Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis: A Comparison of Civil War Commanders in Chief", Michael S. Trench, LCDR, USN; US Army Command & General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS, June 1, 1995; 26.

<sup>4</sup> These were Joseph Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard. The other three in the original group – Samuel Cooper, Albert Sidney Johnston, and Robert E. Lee proved quite competent. Cooper, highest ranking Confederate general and also a close friend of Davis, would serve the combined positions of the Confederate Army's Adjutant General and Inspector General throughout the war. A. S. Johnston, formerly a career US Army officer seemingly on par with Lee, was killed in action at Shiloh on April 6, 1862. Lee came to be the most famous and beloved Confederate general of the war.

<sup>5</sup> [General in Chief of the Armies of the Confederate States - Wikipedia.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Davis went through five Secretaries of War. He was on his second (Judah P. Benjamin) when the year started and on his fifth (James A. Seddon) when it ended. See list at [Confederate Cabinet Departments and Secretaries](#), Dennis L. Peterson; Jefferson: McFarland and Company, 2016; 92. As to communicating directly with senior officers in the field, see, for example, Trench, 29-31. In contrast, President Lincoln fired his first Secretary of War, the incompetent Simon Cameron, in January 1862, replacing him on January 20 with the very capable Edwin Stanton who served in this position for the remainder of the war.

<sup>7</sup> "From the earliest days in Montgomery, Davis basically acted as his own secretary of war. Considering no matter too trivial for his attention, he did not assign Secretary Walker primary responsibility for any activity. Much correspondence and many directives went out over Walker's signature, but all the major decisions, and many minor ones, were Davis's... As the war became larger and the demands upon the War Department even greater, Davis's involvement remained so total that no room existed for Walker to act independently. The president's hand was on almost everything, including a Virginia civilian's offer of his home to care for wounded and a private's request for transfer to be near his brother." [Jefferson Davis, American](#), William J. Cooper, Jr.; New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000; 354. And it continued throughout the war. "[A]fter the turn of the year [1865] when he confronted the disintegration of his armies and his country, Davis continued to immerse himself in a sea of minutiae. His administrative practice did not change at all. He wanted to know why a lieutenant from Louisiana was promoted in a South Carolina artillery unit; he even entered a dispute over seniority between two captains in a Virginia regiment. A plan to promote several captains in General William Hardee's command generated a directive to the adjutant and inspector general. In early spring 1865 Davis gave directions in a controversy over a local commander's right to revoke a general order for a special assignment. Late in April he instructed [then Secretary of War] Breckenridge on the promotions of lieutenants on general staffs." Cooper, 520-521.

<sup>8</sup> In the West, Lincoln had the kind of aggressive generals he needed: Ulysses S. Grant and William Tecumseh Sherman. Their reputation would climb throughout 1862, from Grant's capturing of Forts Henry and Donelson through their victory at Shiloh. Lincoln came to realize he could not be Commander in Chief and General in Chief at the same time. The burdens and practicalities simply did not allow it. He brought Major General Henry Halleck from the West to Washington to be General in Chief effective July 23. But

even then, Lincoln lacked confidence in Halleck and often went around him to his field commanders and allowed them to bypass Halleck as well. Trench, 87.

<sup>9</sup> The Second Battle of Bull Run/Manassas (August 29-30), failure to pursue after the Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg (September 18), and the disastrous Battle of Fredericksburg (December 13).

<sup>10</sup> "Union and Confederate Politics", Michael Todd Landis, [Union and Confederate Politics - Essential Civil War Curriculum](#).

<sup>11</sup> Daniel, *op cit*.

<sup>12</sup> Landis, *op cit*.

<sup>13</sup> Landis, *op cit*.

<sup>14</sup> See [Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln](#), Doris Kearns Goodwin; New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005. An outstanding read on the topic.

<sup>15</sup> "Habeas Corpus", Frank J. Williams, [Habeas Corpus - Essential Civil War Curriculum](#)

<sup>16</sup> [U.S. Senate: The Civil War: The Senate's Story](#). The twelve Acts were:

February 19, 1862: [Anti-Coolie Act](#), Sess. 1, ch. 24, 27, 12 [Stat. 340](#)

February 25, 1862: [Legal Tender Act of 1862](#), Sess. 2, ch. 33, 12 [Stat. 345](#)

April 16, 1862: [District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act](#), Sess. 2, ch. 54, 12 [Stat. 376](#)

May 15, 1862: [An Act to Establish a Department of Agriculture](#), Sess. 2, ch. 72, 12 [Stat. 387](#)

May 20, 1862: [Homestead Act](#), Sess. 2, ch. 75, 12 [Stat. 392](#)

June 19, 1862: [An Act to secure Freedom to all persons within the Territories of the United States](#), Sess. 2, ch 111, 12 [Stat. 432](#)

July 1, 1862: [Morrill Anti-Bigamy Act](#), Sess. 2, ch. 126, 12 [Stat. 501](#)

July 1, 1862: [Revenue Act of 1862](#), Sess. 2, ch. 119, 12 [Stat. 432](#)

July 1, 1862: [Pacific Railway Act](#), Sess. 2, ch. 120, 12 [Stat. 489](#)

July 2, 1862: [Morrill Land Grant Colleges Act](#), Sess. 2, ch. 130, 12 [Stat. 503](#)

July 17, 1862: [Confiscation Act of 1862 \(aka Second Confiscation Act\)](#)

July 17, 1862: [Militia Act of 1862](#), Sess. 2, ch. 201, 12 [Stat. 597](#)

<sup>17</sup> [United States Congressional Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War - Wikipedia](#); also see [A History of Notable Senate Investigations: Joint Committee on the Conduct of War \(Civil War\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>19</sup> The 1st Louisiana Native Guard (CSA) was a Confederate Louisianan militia that consisted of free blacks. Formed in 1861 in New Orleans, it was disbanded on April 25, 1862. Some of the unit's members joined the Union Army's 1st Louisiana Native Guard, which later became the 73rd Regiment Infantry of the United States Colored Troops.

<sup>20</sup> Landis, *op cit*.

<sup>21</sup> [Confederate Conscription Acts 1862–1864 - Wikipedia](#)

<sup>22</sup> [1862: Near Victory for the Confederacy | Encyclopedia.com](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Constitution of the Confederate States of America- what was changed? \(jjmccullough.com\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> "Civil Liberties in Virginia during the Civil War", [Civil Liberties in Virginia during the Civil War – Encyclopedia Virginia](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Prize cases | American legal history | Britannica](#). See also, "United States, The Prize Cases" at [United States, The Prize Cases | How does law protect in war? - Online casebook \(icrc.org\)](#).

<sup>26</sup> [Frémont Emancipation - Wikipedia](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Monroe and the "Contrabands of War" \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

<sup>28</sup> As the Senate met in extraordinary session from July 4 to August 6, 1861, one of the wartime measures it considered was the Confiscation Act, designed to allow the federal government to seize property, including slave property, being used to support the Confederate rebellion. The Senate passed the final bill on August 5, 1861, by a vote 24 to 11, and it was signed into law by Lincoln the next day. Although this bill had symbolic importance, it had little effect on the rebellion or wartime negotiations.

When Congress again convened in December, Senator Lyman Trumbull of Illinois, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, proposed a more comprehensive confiscation bill. On December 2, 1861, Trumbull introduced the Confiscation Act of 1862 to allow for seizure of all Confederate property, whether or not it had been used to support the rebellion. Before long, however, Trumbull's bill stalled due to ideological differences over the issue of confiscation. Radical Republicans called for a vigorous confiscation bill to seize property and free slaves, but more conservative members worried about expanding the reach of the federal government while denying property owners their constitutional rights.

Early in 1862, a group of moderate senators, led by Ohio's John Sherman, produced a compromise bill that authorized the federal government to free slaves in conquered rebel territory and prohibited the return of fugitive slaves, while allowing for confiscation of Confederate property through court action. It also allowed the Union army to recruit African American soldiers. Although more aggressive than the first act, the Confiscation Act of 1862 also lacked enforcement capabilities. Loosely enforced by the Lincoln administration, the law was actively undermined by Lincoln's successor, President Andrew Johnson. [U.S. Senate: The Confiscation Acts of 1861 and 1862](#)

<sup>29</sup> Landis, *op cit*.

### **TVCWRT Little Round Table (LRT) Discussion and Schedule -**

**The Vicksburg Campaign; February 26, 2021** - Vicksburg Campaign 6 - Champion Hill and Big Black; Led by John Allen Hill and The Big Black. He presented a short overview of Phase 1 (west side of the Mississippi), Thumbnail sketches of some of the more interesting generals in the campaign, a quick review of Grant's march from Bruinsburg to Jackson – Phase 2, and the God-awful confusion and slaughter between Jackson and Vicksburg

Many of the questions presented by Jeff Ewing were addressed and a controversial topic that contrasted military doctrine and training against an Historian, Many of Jeff Ewing's questions were addressed and one brought on contrasting views:

**Jeff Ewing submitted:** Here are some citations from Grabau's book that help clarify points that were raised during last night's discussions (*Provided by Jeff Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator*):

On the north end of Pemberton's line Lee at first did not expect trouble from the north. The principle of concentration of force surely would prevent the Yankees from advancing on such a broad front.... still, the more he thought about it, the more uneasy he became, especially after a local farmer told him it was the main road leading directly from Jackson. As a precaution he posted a patrol 1400 yards further north at a knoll by the Champion house.

“To Pemberton it seemed most unlikely that an experienced general like Grant would divide his forces into three widely separate columns on the eve of battle. That being the case, the force on the Jackson rode almost certainly was nothing more than a flank guard, because the strong forces pushing westward on both the Middle and Raymond roads must constitute the major part of Grant's troops.”

“Pemberton simply did not believe that Grant would so fragment his army as to put a strong column on each of the three roads leading east, because that would mean Grant was advancing on a front of four miles by three routes separated by such difficult terrain that communication between the columns would be slow, if not impossible.

To Pemberton's eye, this looked as if the Yankees were coming perilously close to violating the axiom that one should always concentrate in the face of the enemy. He had too much respect for Grant as a

general to believe that the Federal commander would do anything so foolish. Therefore, the force in the north could only be a strong security guard for the right flank."

"The news that there existed a direct road to the Lower Bakers Creek bridge and that the bridge had been rebuilt meant that the Confederate army had, against all expectation. An avenue of retreat that could be made secure against Federal interference and that would permit the withdrawal of artillery and ambulances as well."

"About 1900, Loring's advance guard regiment reached the Lower Bakers Creek Bridge, crossed, and marched for Edwards. A mile beyond the bridge the regiment received artillery fire from a battery 1,000 yards to the north, but pressed on toward Edwards. Then, suddenly, when they were less than a mile away, fires blossomed in the town. The regimental commander interpreted this as evidence the Yankees were in possession of the town and turned back."

Taking a trail which proved too narrow for his wagons and artillery, Loring was forced to abandon them. He marched southeast toward Auburn and several days later reached Jackson.

Finally, to the point that only about a third of either army had been seriously engaged at Champion Hill here is the supporting casualty breakdown:

#### Army of Vicksburg Champion Hill Casualties

- Loring's DIV: 117
- Bowen's DIV: 868
- Stevenson's DIV: 3,761

#### Army of Tennessee Casualties

- Raymond Road force: 25
- Middle Road Force: 133
- Jackson Road Force: 2119

#### **Ed Kennedy comments:**

Warren Grabau's book is the "Gold Standard" in my opinion. It is 600+ pages with great maps. However, Grabau's analysis is from someone without any extensive military training or background. As good as a historian Grabau was (it was not his training or vocation), speculating on what Pemberton may have thought regarding Grant's "wide" movements are Grabau's thoughts. I think Grabau's analysis here is faulty.

The key to our discussion last night regarding avenues of approach being separated is Grabau's, not Pemberton's. The key is the word "widely". Grabau states: "To Pemberton it seemed most unlikely that an experienced general like Grant would divide his forces into three widely separate columns on the eve of battle."

MY ANALYSIS: Grant's corps were advancing only a couple of miles apart. This is very, very close --- not "widely" at all --- but it was due to the existing road networks as much as operational planning. "Widely" would be approximately 20 miles or more .....a day's march according to the military maxims of the time (it is not defined in distance but rather in 'time'). "Mutually supporting distance" is the key. How fast could one corps reinforce another? 20 miles was about 5 hours forced march....on reasonable roads. The troops would be expected to be committed to combat after marching that distance. Time was the key so it was not so much a function of terrain or roads. It was how fast the corps could move to support. Lack of roads, or poor roads might adjust the distance to 10 or 15 miles. It just depended on TIME. Corps would be expected to only be about 5+ hours away from each other. Corps making initial enemy contact would be expected to fight until the arrival of other, supporting corps. It was thought that 5-12 hours was a reasonable amount of time a corps could fight on its own. All this goes back to Napoleon's dictums which professional officers studied.

How does Grabau ascertain that Pemberton was speculating on a wide advance by Grant? That, I believe, is strictly and solely Grabau's opinion but I have never seen the facts to support it. They may exist, I've never seen them. Pemberton really had no idea exactly where Grant was. He may have assumed Grant was moving "widely" based on Grant's movement from Bruinsburg to Jackson but he did not know (that move had the corps within easy supporting distances). In fact, Pemberton's dispositions on the night of the 15th prior to the battle accidentally allowed for an excellent hasty

defense. Had Pemberton known where Grant was, he should have prepared a defense. Instead, both sides blundered into each other. Had Pemberton known exactly where Grant was, he likely would have had his units prepare positions on a site of his choosing to take advantage of fields of fire (my supposition), or, stayed within the Vicksburg defensive works and not venturing out. A meeting engagement is a dicey affair. "Providence is always on the side of the big battalions." - Comte de Bussy-Rabutin at Champion Hill, with all other things being equal, this proved to be true.

- John Scales concurred with Ed's comments
- Cheryl McCauley, former TVCWRT Vice President also concurred.
- Kent Wright also commented on Grabau's remarks as well.

**Next Up: March 26, 2021** - Vicksburg Campaign 7 - Siege Operations Led by Emil Posey

### **LRT 2021 Schedule**

**April 22, 2021** – Vicksburg Campaign 8 – Port Hudson & Final Vicksburg Assessment; Led by Emil Posey

**May 27, 2021**- U.S. Cavalry at Brandy Station; Led by Jeff Ewing

**June 24, 2021**- Trading with the Enemy; Led by Jeff Ewing

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

**August 26, 2021**- Western Theater July-Dec 1863; **Led by TBD**

**Sept 23, 2021**- **Topic and lead TBD**

**October 28 2021** - Trans-Mississippi Theater Oct-Dec 1863; **Led TBD**

**December 9, 2021** - How Developments in Missouri Shaped the War; Led by Fred Forst

**The Vicksburg Assessment:** The US Army Center of Military History lists Vicksburg as the 14<sup>th</sup> Campaign (29 March - 4 July 1863) of the War Between the States. The Center also lists operations against Vicksburg in December of 1862 through January 1863 as separate from the Campaign but as we have learned, Vicksburg became the focus of both Presidents' Davis and Lincoln nearly as soon as the Anaconda Plan was published in 1861. The Little Round Table, over the last year addressed Vicksburg in the context of the entire period.

Next month, March 26, 2021, Emil Posey will continue with the 7<sup>th</sup> installment of our eight months of discussions on Vicksburg- Siege Operations and on April 22, 2021 he will address Vicksburg Campaign 8 – Port Hudson & Final Vicksburg Assessment.

Our analysis has addressed every aspect of Vicksburg including Civil/Military relationships, leader personalities, National policy, strategy, operations, tactics, engineering, Joint military operations, moral conduct and more.

What is your take-away from our study of Vicksburg? Be prepared to address it on April 22. This has been a significant learning experience and I propose to take our collective perspectives and prepare a special edition assessment, distributed similarly to the Newsletter and posted on the web site. Our collective reflection of all things related to Vicksburg based upon our discussions during the Little Round Table. I expect we will have alternative views our members and other Round Tables would enjoy as well as those in Europe and Australia.

**Thank You!** John Scales, January was another great presentation featuring Forrest at Fort Donelson, 1862.

## 2021 Member Honor Roll

- PATRONS
  - **Emil Posey**
- SUSTAINING MEMBERS
  - None
- SUPPORTING
  - **Curtis Adams**
  - **Rick Jarimillo**
  - **Polly Padden**
  - **Alan & Diana Ruzicka**
  - **John Scales**

### **The TVCWRT Management Team**

#### **OFFICERS (Elected)**

- *Ed Kennedy, President*
- *(vacant), Vice President (We need help)*
- *Secretary (Robert Hennessee pending membership approval)*
- *Sallyanne Cos, Treasurer*

#### **BOARD MEMBERS (Appointed)**

- *Michael Acosta, Technology Officer*
- *Art Helms, Programs Officer/Sergeant a Arms*
- *Robert Hennessee, Preservation Officer*
- *Ed Kennedy, Communications Officer (We need help)*
- *Arley McCormick, Newsletter Editor*
- *Kevin Rodriguez, Membership Officer*

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

- *Debra Morgan*

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS (Appointed)**

- *Jeffry Ewing, Little Round Table Coordinator*
- **(Vacant) Greeter Coordinator, (We need help)**

- *John Scales, Field Trip Coordinator (Former President)*

#### **GRAY BEARDS**

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

#### **STAGE CREW**

- *Michael Acosta, Lead*
- *Ed Kennedy, Master of the Screen and General Roustabout,*
- *Mike Sosebee, First Master of the Sound System (We need help)*
- *Lin Turner, Second Master of the Sound System*
- *Brad Tuten, Master Projectionist (We need help)*