



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta

Founded 1949

December 2009

568th Meeting

Leon McElveen, Editor

December Meeting

Reservations Are Required

PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR DINNER
RESERVATION CHECK OF **\$32.00** PER
PERSON TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

David Floyd
4696 Kellogg Drive, SW
Lilburn, GA 30047- 4408

TO REACH DAVID NO LATER THAN NOON ON
THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE MEETING

E-mail and telephone reservations will
not be accepted

Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2009

Time: Cocktails 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm

Place: Ansley Golf Club
196 Montgomery Ferry Road

Price: \$32.00 per person

Program: *Stones River*
Jim Lewis

Jim Lewis - Stones River

Jim Lewis, a Park Ranger, at the Stones River National Battlefield Park, will present our December program on the battle fought there in late December 1862 and early January 1863. Jim is an expert on the campaigns and battles in and around the park and is especially knowledgeable about the Battle of Stones River (or Battle of Murfreesboro as the battle was referred to by the Confederates). See page two for a brief synopsis of the battle, but don't miss our December program for an in depth insight into this pivotal battle

The Activities Committee Stays Busy with Several Events

The recently formed Activities Committee chaired by Terry Kingery has been working planning several events for our Round Table. In addition to our recent trip to Columbus, members have attended lectures at Kennesaw Mountain and a nighttime re-enactment at Pickett's Mill. Have you ever seen a Napoleon fired at night?. The next event is a group outing to the Nashville Civil War Show on December 5. Don't miss out on these great events Terry is lining up.

Ed Bearss in October

Long time friend and honorary member Ed Bearss once again put on one of his top-notch presentations to a full house last month.. His talk on the discovery and preservation of the Cairo in the late 1950's through the mid-1960's was accompanied by a slide presentation of Ed's personal photos. His descriptions of their efforts to

November Meeting continued...

rescue the hard luck ironclad, or as Ed put it, "how not to save an ironclad", made the multi-year project come alive.

Our thanks once again to Ed for bringing to us a glimpse into the Civil War as only he can. We look forward to Ed's next visit with great anticipation.

2009 - 2010 Program Preview

- January 12, 2010** Tim Smith
Shiloh
- February 12, 2010** Glenn LaFantasie
Twilight at Little Round Top
- March 9, 2010** James McPherson
Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief: Tried by War
RICHARD BARKSDALE HARWELL AWARD
- April 13, 2010** Jeffery Wert
The Stonewall Brigade vs. the Iron Brigade
- May 11, 2010** Robert E.L. Krick
The Peninsula Campaign
- June 8, 2010** Jack Davis
The Siege of Charleston

Upcoming Events

- December 5, 2009:** Living history, "1860s Christmas." at the Jefferson Davis Memorial Historic Site near Fitzgerald. Candlelight tours of the site. Period Santa visit. 6-8 pm. Park fees apply. 229-831-2335.
- December 5-6, 2009:** The Nashville Civil War Show & Sale at Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville. Largest Civil War show in the country. Over 1,000 tables. Saturday 9-5, Sunday 9-3. *For more information, contact:* Mike Kent, (770) 630-7296; www.mikekentshows.net
- December 12, 2009:** Winter Muster, battle and candle lantern tour at Fort McAllister Historic Park near Richmond Hill. Living history and special tours. 8 am-5 pm. Park fee charged. 912-727-2339.
- December 12 - 13, 2009:** Living history, "Remembering the Battle of the Cedars," at the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. Programs at 11 am, 1 pm and 2 pm. Free. www.nps.gov/stri or 615-893-9501.
- December 26 - January 3, 2010:** Anniversary activities at the Stones River National Battlefield in Murfreesboro. Ranger talks, tours, demonstrations and much more. Details: www.nps.gov/stri or 615-893-9501.

The Battle of Murfreesboro

After General Braxton Bragg's defeat at Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862, he and his Confederate Army of the Mississippi retreated, reorganized, and were re-designated as the Army of Tennessee. They then advanced to Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and prepared to go into winter quarters.

Major General William S. Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland followed Bragg from Kentucky to Nashville. Rosecrans left Nashville on December 26, with about 44,000 men, to defeat Bragg's army of more than 37,000. He found Bragg's army on December 29 and went into camp that night, within hearing distance of the Rebels.

At dawn on the 31st, Bragg's men attacked the Union right flank. The Confederates drove the Union line back to the Nashville Pike by 10:00 am but there it held. Union reinforcements arrived from Rosecrans's in the late forenoon to bolster the stand, and before fighting stopped that day the Federals had established a new, strong line.

On New Years Day, both armies marked time. Bragg surmised that Rosecrans would withdraw, but the next morning he was still in position. In late afternoon, Bragg hurled a division at a Union division that, on January 1, had crossed Stones River and had taken up a strong position on the bluff east of the river. The Confederates drove most of the Federals back across McFadden's Ford, but with the assistance of artillery, the Federals repulsed the attack, compelling the Rebels to retire to their original position.

Officers for the 2009 -2010 Campaign:

- President**Bruce Stewart
- First Vice President** J.D. Humphries
- Second Vice President** Gould Hagler
- Secretary / Treasurer** David Floyd
- Executive Committee** 2009: Jack Melton
2009: . Steve Morrison, Jr.
2010: Art Carey
2010: Charlie Crawford
- Past President** Barbara Long
- Battle Lines Editor** Leon McElveen

