



THE drum roll

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Number 10 June 7, 2013

Debates left a record of their political philosophies

Friday, June 7, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Concorde Banquets
20922 North Rand Road, Kildeer, Illinois

Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas — Reminiscences



George Buss and Tim Connors

As early as 1838 Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas began a rivalry that was not only political but also personal. They were once rivals for the hand of Mary Todd.

Politically, Douglas was a Jacksonian Democrat who believed in the principle of limited government driven by state and local initiative with as little federal involvement as possible. To Douglas slavery was not a moral issue but one of individ-

ual conscience and economic practicality and one subject to popular will.

Lincoln was, and would always remain, a Whig follower of Henry Clay and his “American System.” Lincoln, like his mentor Clay, believed in a protective tariff and internal improvements instituted by a strong federal government to advance free labor, free spoil, and free enterprise. In this free-labor society there was no place for slavery — especially its expansion. If slavery were introduced into the U. S. territories, it could suffocate the expansion of free labor. To Lincoln slavery was not only an economic travesty but a moral aberration.

The rivalry may have remained low key if Senator Stephen Douglas hadn’t pushed through the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854. Kansas-Nebraska repealed the Missouri Compromise and opened the territories formed from the Louisiana Purchase to slavery on the basis of popular sovereignty. Lincoln was to say: “... took us by surprise — astounded us We were thunderstruck and stunned.... I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri compromise aroused me again.”

Lincoln decided to challenge Douglas for the Illinois U. S. Senate seat in 1858. The result was a series of debates that not only informed the nation of their positions but left us with an invaluable record of their political philosophies and views.

On June 7, 2013, George Buss and Tim Connors will recreate Lincoln and Douglas at our annual banquet. We will hear some reminiscences of these two great men from two of the foremost historical reenactors in the country.

Please join us at Concorde Banquets for what will prove to be an informative and entertaining evening. — *Tom Gavigan*

Get your banquet reservations to Tom DeFranco by May 31

Longstreet at the Operational Level

By Tom DeFranco

On Friday May 3, 2013, Harold Knudsen presented to the round table a case for Confederate Lt. General James Longstreet as a forward-looking operational chief. If anyone today would be an expert on Longstreet's military skills, it's Knudsen.

For many years after the Civil War, James Longstreet lived in the shadow of his old Army of Northern Virginia leaders, Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson. As a team, for five campaigns in slightly less than a year, they gave Federal army commanders in the Eastern Theater as much and likely more than they could handle. Because of Confederate post-war squabbling in what became known as the Lost Cause, Longstreet's wartime exploits took a back seat to Lee's and Jackson's.

Knudsen presented a strong case for Longstreet's operational prowess and showed examples of how his attack plans (yes, attacks, for those of us who still believe that Longstreet was merely a defensive-minded commander) were used as a basis for attacking armies in future wars. A notable example was the similarity between the German deployment for Operation Barbarossa (the 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union) and Longstreet's attack deployment at Chickamauga.

In Longstreet's case, he deployed the bulk of the left wing of the Army of Tennessee (General Braxton Bragg in army command) with a narrow frontage (two brigades wide and five brigades deep). The idea was that after the lead elements of the assaulting force took their casualties, the follow-up units would have more than enough steam left to continue the attack and plow through any further resistance by the targeted enemy units. But there was more to the assault plans than a narrow frontage.

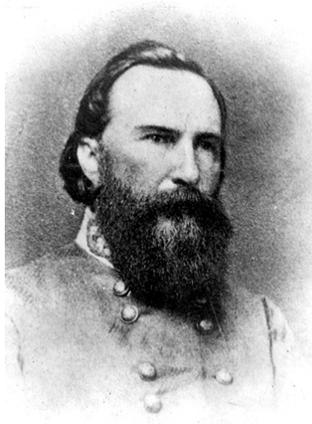
In order to prevent any neighboring Federal units from providing support to the targeted units,

other Confederate brigades were arrayed on either side of the lead units of the column to engage those neighboring Federal units. Knudsen presented an operational map of a portion of the Wehrmacht's attack plans. The similarity in appearance to Longstreet's plan was uncanny. As to where Longstreet got the idea, it might have been a realization of what he considered wrong with the attack plans at Gettysburg. Once contact was made there weren't enough men left to sustain the assault and assure success. By contrast, at Chickamauga Longstreet's attack routed a sizable portion of the Army of the Cumberland from the field.

The aftermath of Chickamauga led to the siege at Chattanooga. The Confederates had the Federals bottled up at Chattanooga, but that was illusory. Soon after the Union retreat to Chattanooga General William Rosecrans made plans to keep his army supplied. In addition, the Union had a center of

gravity (defined as a "source of the enemies' power that provides moral or physical strength, freedom of action, or will to act") in the form of reinforcements. The Union line of supply was based in Bridgeport/Stevenson, Alabama.

Longstreet divined that the way to slow or possibly stop the Federal resupply efforts was to go after what he considered to be their weakness — Bridgeport itself. This plan was an operational-level response to the problems facing the Confederates. Bragg disagreed. Bragg had long had the cloud of dissension hanging over his head. Not only were the rank and file soldiers disillusioned with Bragg, but most notably, with few exceptions, Bragg was greatly disliked by his subordinate generals since at least the aftermath of Perryville a year before. Longstreet was implicated as being one of the dissenting parties. Instead of aiming for the perceived operational weakness, Longstreet was sent to Knoxville to deal with



General James Longstreet

General Ambrose Burnside's Army of the Ohio. This ended Longstreet's connection with the Army of Tennessee and a possible opportunity to stem the tide in the war in the West.

On behalf of the Round Table, I wish to thank Harold Knudsen for both his excellent presentation about James Longstreet's operational acumen and his own service to our country.

Summer Events

June 7–9, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. 5th Annual Salute to Freedom features musical performances, special exhibits, and living history presentations. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

June 11, McHenry County Civil War Round Table. Rick Andresen will speak on Reconstruction.

June 14, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Rod Miller will speak on the 113th Illinois at Vicksburg, 12 noon.

June 14, Chicago Civil War Round Table. Timothy Smith will speak on Corinth.

June 16, Graue Mill and Museum, Oak Brook. Battlefield Balladeers will present a free program of patriotic, sentimental, and comic songs of the Civil War period, 1 p.m.

June 21, Salt Creek Civil War Round Table. Eric Jacobsen will speak on the Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, Tennessee.

June 23, Lake County Civil War Round Table. Annual picnic at Van Patten Woods.

July 1–3, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Lecture series commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Speakers: Lance Herdegen on the Black Hats at Gettysburg; Doug Dammann on Upper Midwesterners at Little Round Top; James Heinz on Alonzo Cushing at Pickett's Charge, 1 p.m. each day.

July 6, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Living History Saturday offers an opportunity to meet General Ulysses Grant and hear about the Vicksburg Campaign.

July 12, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Sandra Moats reflects on the Battle of Gettysburg, 150 years later, 12 noon.

July 18, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Dinner celebrates the opening of a new exhibit, "The Campaigns of '63: Gettysburg and Vicksburg." Marshall Krolick will speak on the 8th Illinois Cavalry. Reservations required for dinner.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee will hold a meeting on Saturday, June 15, 2013, from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. prior to the Saturday discussion at the Hoffman Estates Community Bank, 1735 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates.

Book Discussion Group

The Civil War book discussion group at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo Avenue (just south of Lawrence Avenue), Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10 until 11:30 a.m. The book to be discussed on June 1 is *Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg* by Timothy Smith.

Women's Civil War Book Club

The next book for the Civil War book club for women is *The Red Badge of Courage* by Stephen Crane. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, at 2 p.m. at the home of Ellen Allen, 755 Fox Trail Terrace, Cary. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Denise Limburg at dlimburg@prodigy.net or (847) 382-1022, or Mary Banks at (847) 497-3149 or zeller1@comcast.net.

To Contribute to the Drum Roll

All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Appropriate subjects include (but are not limited to) book reviews, family histories, travel reports, and recent research. Articles should be whatever length is necessary to cover the subject; those that are too long will be divided for insertion in more than one issue. If you have information to share, please send it to Sally Smith, 328 Eastern Avenue, Barrington, Illinois 60010-4629; telephone (847) 381-6486; or e-mail drum_roll4@juno.com.



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Appointed Positions

Book Raffle	Charles Banks
Newsletter Editor	Sally Smith



May Raffle

The May raffle winners were Mary Banks, who won *Strangling the Confederacy* by Kevin Dougherty, and Bill Lax, who won *Master of War: The Life of General George H. Thomas* by Benson Bobrick, both donated by Wayne Rhine; Corey Lange, who won *Pea Ridge: Civil War Campaign in the West* by William L. Shea and Earl J. Hess; and Charles Brenneman, who won *The Irish Brigade* by Steven J. Wright.

Congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to the donors. If you would like to donate Civil War–related books or items, please contact Charlie Banks.

June Saturday Discussion

All members and guests are invited to participate in the session to be held at the Hoffman Estates Community Bank, 1375 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates, on Saturday, June 15, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Attendees are asked to park in the adjacent lot rather than in spaces provided for bank customers.

The discussion of the Battles of Chickamauga/Chattanooga will be led by second vice president Dave Powell. These discussions are generally held on the third Saturday of the month from September through June. They are held to generate and foster a free exchange of ideas on events that transpired during the Civil War.

2013–2014 Speakers

September 6	Greg Biggs	Fort Donelson Campaign
October 4	Terry Winschel	Vicksburg
November 1	Bruce Kraig	How the Civil War Changed Food in America
December 6	David Keller	Camp Douglas
January 3	Wayne Rhine	Lincoln: the Lawyer
February 7	Doug Stiles	Lincoln's Watch
March 7	Bruce Allardice	Election of 1864
April 4	To be arranged	
May 2	Betty Kay	Three Illinois Women During the Civil War
June 6	Tim Smith	Corinth

To learn more about this Round Table call Tom DeFranco at (708) 456-2251
or visit our website at www.northernilcwr.org