



HARPERS FERRY

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO BOX 1079, HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

Vol. 33 December 2013 No. 04

DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2013

TIME: Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 8:00

PLACE: Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV

SPEAKER: Tim Rowland

SUBJECT: Winfield Scott and the Anaconda Plan

The Speaker:

Tim Rowland is a humor columnist and T.V. commentator for *Herald-Mail Media* in Hagerstown, MD.

Born in Ely, MN, he moved with his family to Berkeley Springs, WV, where he developed a love for the mountains and all things outdoors. At 16 he rode a bicycle across the United States and went on in later life to climb all forty-six High Pikes in New York's Adirondack Mountains. In addition, he has climbed in Alaska, the Rockies, the Himalayas, the Andes, the Swiss and Italian Alps, and in Norway's Arctic parks. After graduating from West Virginia University with degrees in journalism and history, Rowland spent a half-dozen years covering the state legislatures of West Virginia and Maryland, as well as Capitol Hill, before becoming a full-time columnist in 1993. He was syndicated by *Bridge News Service* in the late '90s, with columns and travel pieces appearing in newspapers nationwide and in Canada. He is a frequent contributor to *America's Civil War Magazine*, *Bay Journal News Service* and *Cato's Regulation* magazine.

Tim has written several books, including histories of the Adirondack and Western Maryland mountains. His latest book is *Strange and Obscure Stories of the Civil War* (Skyhorse, New York, N.Y. 2011).

Tim and his wife, Beth, reside in Berkeley Springs, WV. Together they raise grass-fed beef cattle and free-range poultry.

The Subject

Before Gen. Winfield Scott was elbowed out of office early in the war, he drew up the Anaconda Plan, a blueprint for economically strangling the South. The plan exploited the South's terribly limited economy which produced cotton and precious little else. It's often assumed that the Anaconda Plan was put on the shelf along with Scott but that isn't what happened. The backbone of Anaconda remained in place and deserves recognition as a key reason for the Northern victory. In fact, the North's greatest failures came in areas where Scott's advice was ignored and its greatest victories in areas where it was most closely followed. As such, Winfield Scott might have seen the war with more clarity than any of his contemporaries, a fact for which he gets little credit until now.

The Meal

A family-style meal will be served at 7:00 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$15.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be phoned in no later than Sunday, December 8th**, to Kyle Wichtendahl at 301-639-8855 or you can email him at kfwichtendahl@gmail.com. The meal will be Fried Chicken, Asian Slaw, Baked Beans, Iced Tea, Coffee, Rolls, Butter, & Dessert.

Civil War Milestones

It was a war that saw many "firsts." The long list of Civil War firsts include America's first income tax, the first battle between ironclad ships, the first extensive use of black soldiers and sailors in U.S. service, the first use of quinine to treat typhoid fever, America's first military draft, and many others. There were advances in medical treatment, military tactics, the chaplain service, and other fields. Over the course of the Civil War, weapons ranged from obsolete flintlocks to state-of-the-art repeaters. During the Civil War, women took on new roles, including running farms and plantations and spying; some disguised themselves as men and fought in battle. All of the nation's ethnic groups participated in the war, including Irish, Germans, American Indians, Jews, Chinese, and Hispanics. (From *Civil War Times*)

Naval Battles of the Civil War

Most naval actions occurred on rivers and inlets or in harbors, and include history's first clash between two ironclads, the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (a captured and converted ship formerly called the Merrimac), at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 9, 1862. Other actions include the Battle of Memphis (1862), Charleston Harbor (1863), and

Mobile Bay (1864), and the naval sieges of Vicksburg in 1862 and again in 1863. The most famous clash between ocean-going warships was the duel between USS Kearsarge and CSS Alabama off Cherbourg, France, June 19, 1864. Throughout the war, the Union had a decided advantage in both numbers and quality of naval vessels. (*Civil War Times*)

Civil War general's Medal of Honor discovered inside book at church sale

Published September 11, 2013/ FoxNews.com

A Medal of Honor awarded to a Civil War general has been returned to a Maine town after it was found inside a book at a church fundraising sale.

The Times Record of Brunswick, Maine reports Civil War Gen. Joshua Chamberlain's original Congressional Medal of Honor has been verified as authentic after it was sent anonymously in July to the Pejepscot Historical Society in Brunswick.

The society at first was skeptical, as they believed Chamberlain's Medal of Honor was already on display at Bowdoin College.

However, that medal was one re-issued to Chamberlain by Congress when the medal was redesigned in 1904, and recipients could either exchange the old medal for the new or keep both. Chamberlain apparently chose to keep both, though he could not wear them at the same time.

Chamberlain received the original medal in 1893 for his heroism at Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg.

It had been given to his granddaughter, whose estate was donated to the First Parish Church of Duxbury, Mass., following her death in 2000.

Someone found the medal in the pages of a book bought from the church at a fundraising sale, and sent it anonymously to the historical society.

“There is photographic evidence that Chamberlain was very proud of the medal, that he wore it quite often,” Pejepscot Historical Society Director Jennifer Blanchard tells the Times Record.

The Brunswick home where Chamberlain lived more than 50 years is now a museum.

Prisoners

As in all Civil War statistical studies, the number of prisoners is subject to doubt. According to the U. S. Record and Pension Office, 211,411 Union soldiers were captured by the Confederates during the Civil War. Of this total 16,668 were paroled on the field and 30,218 died while in prison. Confederate soldiers captured were 462, 634. Of this total, 247,769 were paroled on the field, mainly in various surrenders, and 25,970 died in prison. The mortality rate was a little over 12 per cent in Northern prisons holding Confederates and 15.5 per cent for Yankees in Southern prisons. If these figures are close to accurate, some 214,000 Confederate soldiers were in Northern prison camps and 194,000 Federal soldiers in Southern camps. (Excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day*, E. B. Long, published by Doubleday)