

MEETING NOTICE – April, 2015

Although you may have federal and state income taxes on your mind when you read this Newsletter, remember that the date of April 15, 2015 also marks the third Wednesday of the month. Thus, please note that you are needed at your Round Table's dinner meeting.

DATE: Wednesday, April 15, 2015
PLACE: Smilie's Restaurant
5725 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA
SPEAKER: Martin K. A. Morgan
SUBJECT: The Battle for Mobile Bay and the fate of the Confederates of Fort Morgan
TIME: 6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25.00) (Optional)

OUR SPEAKER: Martin K. A. Morgan is an author/historian who specializes in American and military history. He holds a BA in history from the University of Alabama (1991), an MA in history from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (1996), and is currently a history doctoral candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He is the author of *Down To Earth: The 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment in Normandy* (Schiffer, 2004) and *The Americans on D-Day: A Photographic History of the Normandy Invasion* (Zenith Press, 2014), and he contributes frequently to *World War II Quarterly*, *Shooting Illustrated* and *The American Rifleman*. He has also contributed to such other publications as *Aviation History*, *World War II*, *World War II History*, *Armchair General*, the *Garand Collector's Association Journal*, 39/45 (France) and *After the Battle* (England).

In addition to publishing, for over a decade Martin has also appeared regularly on television programs relating to historical subjects on *Discovery*, *National Geographic*, *History*, *H2*, *The Weather Channel*, *Syfy*, *the Outdoor Channel*, *The Smithsonian Channel*, and *The Military Channel/The American Heroes Channel*. These programs range in subject from D-Day, to Pearl Harbor, to how whiskey, Christmas, and chocolate changed history. With a background as a park ranger for the State of Alabama and a museum professional, his experience in public history paved the way for the publishing and broadcasting work he does today. Since 2002, he has been leading battlefield tours around the world, especially in Europe.

THE SUBJECT: The Battle of Mobile Bay took place as the War was in its fourth year in August, 1864. The city of Mobile had remained as a southern seaport, defended in great measure by Forts Morgan and Gaines. Mobile, together with Wilmington, North Carolina were two of the seaports which had persistently held out. The two forts at the mouth of Mobile Bay had

approximately 63 artillery pieces combined. Union Admiral David G. Farragut had about 18 ships with which to plan and to proceed with his assault. Confederate Admiral Franklin Buchanan had a handful of small gunboats to counter Farragut's force. Martin Morgan will describe these actions with emphasis on Fort Morgan's defenders. His talk includes a power point presentation.

THANKS: Thanks to Carl Aspelund for suggesting this month's speaker.

LAST MEETING: Russell Bonds flew in from Atlanta to talk about the Battle of Atlanta and the military actions in and around that city, including the Battle of Peachtree Creek. Bonds did a fine job in describing the many actions that comprised the Atlanta Campaign. This writer was reminded of our speaker in October, Gordon Rhea who condensed and made understandable several battles that comprised the Overland Campaign. Bonds did a similar presentation, appreciated especially when you consider that Civil War Writers, buffs and battle experts have been dissecting the Atlanta Campaign almost since the end of the War.

POSTSCRIPT: Richard McMurry, Steve Davis and Russell Bonds all mentioned "Gone With The Wind". Mention of the book or the movie or both seems to be a prerequisite in any talk involving Atlanta. Ever wonder what the current asking price for a first edition of Margaret Mitchell's book is in 2015? Most sites that specialize in old books offer it for \$125.00 - \$175.00, depending on both the condition of the book and its dust jacket. Years ago, a pristine copy sold for \$1,500.00.

ANOTHER POSTSCRIPT: Confederate General Clement H. Stevens was killed by an artillery round during the Union advance at the Battle of Peachtree Creek. He was killed about a month before his 44th birthday. He was buried in the cemetery at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton, South Carolina, next to his brother – in – law. Who was his brother – in – law? Brigadier General Barnard E. Bee who was the soldier remembered as the person who famously described Thomas J. Jackson as "standing like a stone wall" at First Manassas. General Bee was 37 years old at the time of his death when he was mortally wounded near Henry Hill.

Stevens and Bee had married two sisters before the War and each became a widow. St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton was established in 1822. Pendleton was founded in 1790. Also buried in this historic cemetery is Thomas G. Clemson, the namesake of the university that bears his name. Although Senator John C. Calhoun is not buried there, his entire family is buried in several plots near the center of the cemetery.

NEXT MEETING: Our last meeting of our 2014-15 season is set for Wednesday, May 20th. Our speaker will be Nora Titone, whose subject will be her book My Thoughts Be Bloody – The Bitter Rivalry That Led to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln (Free Press, 2011).

This newsletter is published nine times a year by the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans, Inc. Please address all correspondence and changes of address to Charles J. Nunez, Editor, 3537 Tolmas Drive, Metairie, LA 70002, or by e-mail at charlesjnunez@gmail.com.