

MEETING NOTICE – MARCH, 2015

Join us this month for Russell S. Bonds' second appearance before our Round Table. Russell spoke to us in October, 2009, on the topic of his second book, Stealing the General The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor. This month, Russell will talk on the subject of his first book.

DATE: Wednesday, March 18, 2015
PLACE: Smilie's Restaurant
5725 Jefferson Hwy., Harahan, LA
SPEAKER: Russell S. Bonds
SUBJECT: War Like the Thunderbolt: The Battle and Burning of Atlanta
TIME: 6:30 p.m. Social
7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25.00) (Optional)

OUR SPEAKER: Russell Bonds is the acclaimed author of Stealing the General The Great Locomotive Chase and the First Medal of Honor, which won the 2007 Richard Barksdale Harwell Award for the best Civil War book of the year and was voted to *Civil War Interactive's* list of the Top 50 Civil War Books of All Time. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech, where he studied architecture, and the University of Georgia School of Law, where he was the Executive Articles Editor of the *Georgia Law Review*. He works for the Coca-Cola corporation.

THE SUBJECT: We have had Richard McMurry talk several months ago on General Joseph Johnston and his actions in and around Atlanta. And, just this past September Steve Davis talked to us about how General Sherman and his staff deliberately targeted Atlanta and in particular several city blocks to burn those parts into useless rubble.

Russell Bonds will discuss how General William T. Sherman unleashed "War Like the Thunderbolt" on Atlanta.

After three unexpected long, bloody years of war, many military and civilians alike thought the War had reached an impasse. Lincoln would be running for re-election and thought his opponents and political enemies would prevail. Lincoln's political campaign needed a major victory on a battlefield, perhaps any battlefield, that would alter the course of the War. Of course, as our speaker will no doubt relate, Sherman's controversial tactics spared neither military nor civilian. Perhaps the leading character of Russell's presentation might be Atlanta itself.

THE LOUISIANA QUADRILLE: Several years have passed since we have had Dr. Donald Frazier of McMurry University as one of our speakers. Don has specialized in events taking

place in the Trans-Mississippi and the West during the War. One of his books on which he spoke to us was Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest (1995).

Don decided to devote his considerable talents as a researcher and writer to events taking place in southwest Louisiana. He came to realize that there was a considerable amount of material that had apparently not been tapped before by other researchers.

Thus, Don years ago, decided on writing four books, i.e., what he calls a “Louisiana Quadrille”. So far Fire in the Cane Field: The Invasion of Louisiana and Texas, 1861-1863 and Thunder Across the Swamp: The Campaign for the Lower Mississippi, February – June 1863 (2012), have been published. Two more will be forthcoming in the near future.

Thus, if you want to limit buying or reading books about the War, you can focus your attention on books that deal with actions close to home. So, you might want to read Don’s books.

LAST MEETING: Ed Bears returned for his now annual February visit to our group. He addressed thirty-four members and guests on some of the battles and movements of the Confederate and Union Armies in and around the Western Front of the Petersburg Campaign. Ed spoke as usual without notes and entertained and informed. A couple of members who have been on battlefield tours with Ed commented later on some of his descriptions of individual generals using language he does not often use in his Round Table presentations!

BOOK RAFFLE: Two great hardbacks and a paperback.

IN MEMORIAM: Tom Nielsen, one of our newer members, passed away earlier this year. Tom was 87. This writer had overlooked mentioning his passing in the January, 2015 Newsletter. Thanks to Jim Fisher for bringing this to my attention.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

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.