



EST. 1955  
INC. 1984

# CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEETING NOTICE – OCTOBER, 2015

Join us this month to enjoy one of our members present a talk on an individual whose name you have probably never heard. Please welcome Glen Vinet.

### SPECIAL NOTICE FOR EVERYONE

One of our members, possessed no doubt with a high level of enthusiasm for our Round Table, has generously offered to pay for dinner for all guests that a member may bring to this month's meeting. So, bring a guest or two or more! Of course, this does not apply to members of your family, or the perpetual guest who never joins.

Wednesday, October 21, 2015  
PLACE: Smilie's Restaurant  
5725 Jefferson Highway  
Harahan, LA  
SPEAKER: Glen Vinet  
SUBJECT: War on the Wire: George Ellsworth  
and the Birth of Electronic Espionage  
TIME: 6:30 p.m. Social 7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25.00) (Optional)

**OUR SPEAKER:** Glen Vinet has studied the Civil War since he was four years old. From his first review of the American Heritage Book of the Civil War when he was still unable to read, he has had an interest in a broad array of subjects within and about the Civil War, with a particular but not exclusive interest in the Civil War in the West. While he has read, literally, hundreds of books, memoirs and articles on the War, Glen believes you can only hope to understand a battle by seeing and hiking the battlefields and has done so, nearly religiously, for the last twenty years. He has visited every National Civil War Battlefield and dozens of state sites. During one of these smaller excursions in eastern Tennessee, he stumbled upon the markers for one of John Hunt Morgan's running battles during his 1863 raid. It was here that he first learned of George "Lightning" Ellsworth.

Ellsworth continued to appear in his research and when Glen turned his study to Ellsworth, he began finding a collection of interesting events about the man and an outline of Ellsworth's life began to emerge.

An 11th generation New Orleanian, Glen has ancestors who fought in all three theaters of the Civil War. His great, granduncle, John B. Vinet, was twice the Commanding General of the Army of Tennessee Veterans Group and was a founding member of the Howard Association as well as President of it. Glen even has an ancestor that served in the Union occupying force here in New Orleans but he rarely acknowledges the connection. Glen graduated from Mississippi State University in 1992.

**THE SUBJECT:** “George Ellsworth is considered to be one of the most influential and innovative men to participate in the Civil War. His understanding of telegraphy and its potential as a weapon of deception and his resultant use of it to confound Union forces in the Middle South and Ohio became instantly legendary. However, of his 50 months in the Confederate service less than a third of it was applied to active telegraphic espionage. Ellsworth’s war on the wire was in fact, brief. With John Hunt Morgan on both of his great raids, he escaped the Union trap in 1863 by swimming the Ohio River. Wounded later that year at Chickamauga, he resurfaced in 1864 in a wide array of locales and Confederate plots, the depth of which is still not fully known.

Ellsworth’s post-war years are likewise a collection of misadventures and “might-have-beens” and include a connection to New Orleans that continues to this day. In a short life of fifty-four years Ellsworth charmed and confounded friend and foe and worked beside a group that includes Samuel Morse, Simon B. Buckner, PGT Beauregard and Thomas Edison.”

**LAST MEETING:** R.E.L. Krick, better known as Bobby, greeted 28 members and guests at our first meeting to start the season. His topic was General Rooney Lee, one of the three sons of Robert E. Lee. Lee had a mixed life filled with triumph and tragedy. He did not do well in school or in the pre-War U.S. Army, but he joined the Confederate cause and quickly rose to the rank of Major General. He was very capable as a cavalry commander but suffered the grievous loss of his first wife and several children in a very short time. Bobby’s appearance after so many years was a treat, given that his first appearance as a speaker for our group was in January, 2000, when his topic was “Lee’s First Victory: Triumph at Gaines’ Mill”.

**SPEAKERS FOR 2015 – 2016:** Please see the speakers and their respective topics for our current year. Remember all meetings are set for the third Wednesday of each month, except for December’s meeting.

September 16, 2015 - Robert E. Lee Krick,  
General William H. F. “Rooney” Lee

October 21, 2015 - Glen Vinet  
War on the Wire: George Ellsworth and the  
Birth of Electronic Espionage

November 18, 2015 - John M. Baldwin, co – author,  
“Last Flag Down: The Epic Journey

of the Last Confederate Warship”

- December 9, 2015 - Dr. Lawrence Lee Hewitt  
Myths of the Civil War
- January 20, 2016 - Sam Hood-John Bell  
Hood: Rise, Fall & Resurrection of a Confederate General
- February 17, 2016 - Ed Bearss – Scandal in the Civil War
- March 16, 2016 - Speaker and Topic Not Yet Confirmed
- April 20, 2016 - Speaker and Topic Not Yet Confirmed
- May 18, 2016 - Wiley Sword – New Perspectives on the Chickamauga/  
Chattanooga Campaigns

**RECOMMENDED:** If you are in the Dallas - Ft. Worth area, try your best to visit the Texas Civil War Museum. The museum is owned by a very wealthy Texas husband and wife who decided years ago to display their vast collection of Civil War Artifacts, including guns, swords, uniforms, flags, soldier and civilian items and so on in a building built specifically for that purpose. The items are in either superb condition or have been nicely restored. Mrs. Richey’s Victorian dress collection is on a level equal to the efforts of the Smithsonian in exhibiting the inaugural dresses of the First Ladies in one of its museums. The museum also houses rare period items owned by the Texas U.D.C. that are rotated occasionally for display.

The Texas Civil War Museum is located at 760 Jim Wright Freeway N. Forth Worth, TX 76108 – 1222. See [www.texascivilwarmuseum.com](http://www.texascivilwarmuseum.com).

**NEXT MEETING:** Next month’s speaker will be John M. Baldwin on Wednesday, November 18, 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](mailto:charlesjnunez@gmail.com).