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# CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF NEW ORLEANS, INC.

## MEETING NOTICE – JANUARY, 2016

One often heard criticism about continued study of the War is how more than 150 years later, can anything more possibly be discovered that is new and exciting? This month our speaker is Stephen M. "Sam" Hood. Sam has worked with descendants of General John Bell Hood and has uncovered scores of original documents previously unknown to scholars and buffs. Join us this month for something new and exciting in the field of Civil War history.

DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2016  
PLACE: Smilie's Restaurant  
5725 Jefferson Hwy.  
Harahan, LA  
SPEAKER: Stephen M. Hood  
SUBJECT: The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood  
TIME: 6:30 p.m. Social 7:00 p.m. Dinner (\$25.00) (Optional)

**OUR SPEAKER:** Stephen M. "Sam" Hood graduated from Kentucky Military Institute, Marshall University (BBA, 1976), and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. A collateral descendant of General Hood, Sam is a retired industrial construction company owner, past member of the Board of Directors of the Blue Gray Education Society, and a past president of the Board of Directors of Confederate Memorial Hall Museum in New Orleans. He lives in his home town of Huntington, West Virginia, with his wife, and is the father of two sons.

**THE SUBJECT:** Sam's two books John Bell Hood, The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of a Confederate General (Savas Beatie, 2013) and The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood (Savas Beatie, 2015), have generated a lot of comment in what is generally referred to as the "Civil War Community".

The second work abovementioned includes documents relating to Hood's pre-War service between 1861-1865 and his postwar life. Sam's newer book includes letters from Confederate and Union officers, battle reports, and detailed medical reports relating to Hood's two major wounds. Also included are dozens of letters exchanged between Hood and his wife, Anna.

Sam will offer a power point presentation to accompany his talk, which will focus mainly on his second book.

Also, if you want to purchase either one or both, please bring cash or a check next Wednesday. Each book has a list price of \$32.95.

**LAST MEETING:** Dr. Lawrence Hewitt addressed about 24 members and their guests at our last meeting in December. Larry's talk "Myths and Mythmakers of the Civil War" was enhanced by his power point.

Larry began by saying that several well-known events from the War may have been inflated, misunderstood, or invented by both contemporaries and later historians.

For example, Larry pointed out that Lee is often cited as a general who quietly transferred generals who he felt had not performed up to expectations. But our speaker noted that Generals Huger, Theophilus Holmes and John B. Macgruder had been transferred to the Trans-Mississippi Theater by the Confederate government and were not dumped there by Lee.

He also noted that when General Jeb Stuart made his famous ride around Gettysburg and then reported to Lee, Lee merely said something akin to "Well General Stuart, you are here" to acknowledge Stuart's presence. Larry suggests that one or two contemporaries exaggerated the tone of Lee's voice.

As Larry also noted, no one will ever know how some of the incidents really transpired or all of the details.

Larry has another two books written that will be published in the next couple of months.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Treasurer Richard Seba has tabulated the final dues payments received. Our total membership stands at 37 for this 2015-2016 season with 34 in-town members and three out of town. Last year, our total was 39 members. The results are surprising as a couple of previous members rejoined and we saw a handful of new faces join.

**SMILIES:** The owner of Smilie's confirmed what Carl Aspelund, Alma Dunlap and Kelly France have told me. Namely the restaurant will move about three blocks away on Jefferson Highway. The original location where we have been meeting for three years will close and eventually be demolished.

The net effect on our Round Table will be minimal. Our January meeting this month will be at the familiar location. Our February meeting will take place at the new location.

**NEXT MEETING:** Ed Bearss will speak to us on the third Wednesday next month, Wednesday, February 17, 2016.

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).