



Battle Lines

Newsletter of the Atlanta Civil War Round Table
Founded 1949

An April Publication

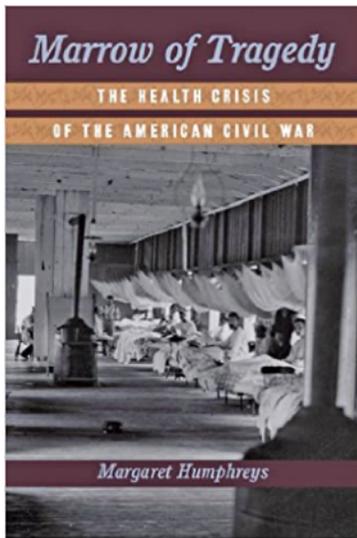
Our April 14 meeting has been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic but with our speaker Dr. William Feis, we will make the scheduled program available to Round Table members. Bill is crafting his April presentation into a special publication for us. We plan to share it with you around the time of the scheduled meeting. Present at the Battle of Atlanta, Union General Grenville Dodge, was a pioneer of Civil War military intelligence. Dodge made his mark on the American West after the war in the military and as a railroad executive. Bill teaches at Buena Vista University in Iowa. He is author of *Essentially American: General Grenville M. Dodge and Family*.

Infection Caused Most War Death

It is estimated that over 700,000 deaths occurred during the course of the Civil War – yet only some 250,000 were directly related to battle wounds. The rest were caused by non-wound related infections. Many of these were from infectious diseases such as smallpox, measles and tuberculosis; other causes included diarrhea/dysentery, typhoid fever, malaria, and pneumonia. The basic problem that caused this spike in such infectious disease spread was that many new recruits were from isolated rural areas, and they had never acquired measles, mumps or chicken pox as children, or the accompanying development of immunity to these diseases. These childhood illnesses, especially measles, are more severe in adults and can cause deaths. So, early in the War recruits were sent to large training camps or assigned directly to regiments on the front line to fill vacancies. When exposed to large groups of soldiers, they might become infected with these diseases, with a resultant epidemic in their ranks. As the War progressed, Army physicians sent new recruits to smaller training camps where they were isolated and could be quarantined until any epidemic had ended. This then, as today, reduced the spread and consequently the number of deaths.

When Union troops occupied New Orleans, they were well aware of the problems caused by Yellow Fever, though they did not know how it was transmitted (mosquitoes). To prevent an epidemic in the city, they rigidly enforced a quarantine on all ships arriving from the Caribbean and South America, where this illness was rampant. These arriving ships were set up well below the

Continued, Next Page



On Civil War Medicine

An estimated 1 million died as the result of the Civil War, America's greatest public health disaster. Harwell Book Award Chairman Gary Barnes suggests a list of books of medical practice and the Civil War: *Marrow of Tragedy: The Health Crisis of the American Civil War* by Margaret Humphreys, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013; *Civil War Medicine: Challenges and Triumphs* by Alfred Jay Bollet, MD, Galen Press, 2003; *Doctoring the South: Southern Physicians and Everyday Medicine in the Mid-19th Century South* by Steven M. Stowe, University of North Carolina Press, 2014; and *Civil War Pharmacy: A History of Drugs, Drug Supply Provision and Therapeutics for the Union and Confederacy* by Michael A. Flannery, CRC Press, 2004.

Infection Caused Most War Death, Continued

city, which just happened to be well out of the range of mosquitoes that might carry such infections from the travelers into the city, though they did not know this. Also, the Union officers in charge drained areas of standing water where they bred, just to be rid of stagnant waters, and the streets were cleared of garbage, which helped greatly.



James Gardner: Officers at Seminary Hospital, Washington, DC, April 1865 (Library of Congress)

While there were no cholera epidemics during the war, there was a major outbreak in 1866.

Finally, other contributing factors to non-wound infections during the War were; poor camp and personal hygiene (remember the problems in Prisoner-of-War camps, such as Andersonville); location of camps near mosquito infested breeding grounds; use of food and water which had been spoiled or contaminated; and poor diet, deficient in fresh fruits and vegetables. Thus, many unexpected health issues resulted in loss of life for the Civil War soldier far beyond the battlefield.

Longtime Round Table Member Dr. Thorne Winter M.D. graciously contributed this article to our Battle Lines Special Edition. Thorne is a graduate of North Fulton High School. After three years at Duke University, he was accepted to Harvard Medical School and there earned his medical degree. Board Certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology, Thorne also studied Hematology and Oncology at the National Cancer Institute. He practiced medicine for 52 years in Atlanta. Notably, Thorne admitted the first patient to Northside Hospital in 1970. To fight the deadly COVID-19 pandemic the Round Table is observing Atlanta and Georgia 'shelter in place' orders and practicing social distancing. Our contemporary concept of quarantine would have saved many lives in the Civil War era. We look forward to gathering again soon, and will continue our Campaign Year by electronic means until then.



Vandiver Honors Wills

Atlanta Civil War Round Table Immediate Past President Dr. Brian Steel Wills is this year's recipient of the prestigious Vandiver Award from the Houston Civil War Round Table. The Annual Frank E. Vandiver Award of Merit is named for Frank Everson Vandiver, noted Texas author, academic and founding member of the Houston Round Table. Awarded since 1982, the Vandiver Award recognizes excellence in contributions to Civil War scholarship or preservation efforts. Besides being a guiding presence and two time winner of our Harwell Book Award, Brian holds a chair in history at Kennesaw State University where he directs the Center for the Study of the Civil War Era.

Congratulations Brian!

A Prayer: 'Now Thank We All Our God'

The Black Death, famine across Europe and the Thirty Years War raged on when Martin Rinkart wrote the hymn, "Now Thank We All Our God." By the end of 1636, when he published the hymn, Pastor Rinkart had performed over 5000 funerals, including his wife's. Even in, perhaps especially in, those darkest of time, Rinkart called on his parishioners to see the goodness of God in the world.

Our current experiences pale in comparison. Yet, they are real and pressing. So Rinkart's words still speak to us today, thanks to translator, Catherine Winkworth who published the first English translation (1858, London) and to Felix Mendelson who wrote what has become the most widely used harmonization (1848). Almost every English language hymnal published for the last 150 years has included it. The hymn currently appears in over 600 hymnals worldwide and has been translated into, at least, eight languages.

Our invocation this month comes from its first two verses:

Now thank we all our God
with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
of this world in the next.

And the People Said: *AMEN*

Mary-Elizabeth Ellard, Atlanta Civil War Round Table
Chaplain and Second Vice President



Harwell Winner

The Fight for the Old North State: The Civil War in North Carolina, January-May 1864 is the 2020 winner of ACWRT’s prestigious annual Richard Barksdale Harwell Book Award. An attorney who lives in Arlington, Virginia, author Hampton Newsom produced two previous books. “Many Civil War buffs believe the only important fights and occurrences during the the last year of the War took place in Virginia. Newsom brings North Carolina’s story into the light and tells how North Carolina military events affected social transformations and politics in the state. *Fight for the Old North State* is deeply researched and noted and an enjoyable read,” says Harwell Committee Chair Gary Barnes. Hampton will be our speaker this coming November.

The President’s Corner

Friends and Fellow Civil War Buffs – Well, this is not what we planned for the second half of the 2019-2020 Campaign Year. We are all learning about “social distancing” as we go to the grocery store, Post Office or pharmacy, and probably watching more TV at home than we care to (news, anyway – I personally like old movies). With the “shelter in place” guidelines in effect until at least April 30th, our May meeting with Dr. Gary Gallagher is in question – but we are leaving it as a “go” for the moment. We will let you know when we are sure.

To my knowledge, the only other ACWRT dinner meeting ever cancelled in our 70 year history other than this month was on 9/11/2001. That attack on the Twin Towers occurred on the second Tuesday morning in September 2001, and it was to have been the date for the opening meeting for our President that year, Terry Kingery. Let us hope we can resume in May, or at least finish the year in June.

We do have good news – Dr. Feis is writing up his presentation now, and we will send it out to you near the planned meeting date of April 14. I am personally very grateful to him for doing this – it will help us keep some continuity for Round Table activities at this difficult time.

Congratulations to our past President Dr. Brian Wills on receiving this years’ Vandiver Award from the Houston Civil War Round Table! Each year the Vandiver Award is given to recognize outstanding contributions to Civil War scholarship or preservation. Brian will travel to Houston to receive the award when the Houston Round Table begins their meetings once again. We are honored to have him as one of our own!

Our entire Board and key staff wish every one of you and your loved ones the very best as we traverse this crisis. Looking forward to seeing all of you as soon as possible,

John

Officers for the 2019-2020 Campaign Year	
President:	John Dietrichs
First Vice President:	Carlton Mullis
Second Vice President:	Mary-Elizabeth Ellard
Secretary/Treasurer:	Tim Whalen
Executive Committee:	Loran Crabtree; Robert Woodruff; Tom Prior; Bill Dodd
Immediate Past President:	Brian Wills