

## **BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

### **WAS CONFEDERATE DEFEAT INEVITABLE????**

William, you make us think and rethink this straightforward question by giving us thoughtful (plus most humorous) enlightenment and TRUTHS –not skepsis (philosophic doubt as to the objective reality of war). You make us see that the good people standing strongly for what they feel is right, can make a difference.

We never thought of the “Old South” as an island but truly, starting at the headwaters of the Potomac around the East Coast and back up the Mississippi ending on a branch of the Ohio puts you 12 miles from where you started –without stepping on land! This became significant for transportation in the South. Railroads there were small lines of differing gauges. The North had three times the miles and standard gauges –no stopping necessary. Do you see how that water barrier helps the South? Do you think the North did not see this? Look at just the land mass and you will see why VP Breckenridge said: “Good people of the South—think, think, about your odds.” Some States denuded their white male population to supply the Army of the Confederacy, while the North raised 2 million men easily and with little effect on the male population. The South was just four months old as opposed to 73 years of national history for the North. No wonder there was always great internal division in the South. As an example, those living an agrarian life in the mountains and owning no slaves felt they were being asked to support a rich slave owners War and become the poor men fighting that war for a cause not affecting them.

Where was the leadership? It was in a vacuum. Lincoln could make reading a phone book exciting and will show brilliant corporate leadership. He only had Winfield Scott, who still had a sharp military mind but was 70 and feeble of body. Jeff Davis was O.K. but very inflexible. He had the best two field commanders of the War in Albert Sidney Johnston and Robert E. Lee. No disagreement there. William sees cotton as a tremendous miscalculation for the South. Davis just wants the South to be left alone. By not losing just enough times, he might make Lincoln set aside national solidarity and play his “Choose to Lose” card.

Ya just had to be there to hear William’s version of: ”Just dropping the bomb!” It was hilarious.

Antietam was one of many “turning points that just wasn’t.” The South had lost so much ground and waterway by 1862 that the war was “technically” over. Every new ship Lincoln launched made the Northern Navy just that much stronger than the British Navy. Britain now thinks twice about putting their soldiers on American soil.

More truth points to the fact that Meade’s 90,000 men would not lose heart and just go away. McClellan’s campaign platform matched Lincoln’s. Preserve the Union. No peace without Northern victory. Lee’s plan to wear down the North long enough to force concessions was not working.

Maybe First Manassas would have truly mattered, we are told. On the same turning point, Atlanta, Gettysburg, Antietam, and little round top would not have made much difference.

William ends by telling us what is true—WE HAVE NEVER STOPPED ARGUING ABOUT THE CIVIL WAR. Submitted by Dan Fink