

## **BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

**MEETING – April 3, 2017**

**“THE SECOND DAY AT GETTYSBURG”**

**SPEAKER – DAVE Shultz**

A huge thank you goes to “one of our own.” Dave Shultz generously did a great pinch hit for us. Abner Doubleday introduced baseball to his Civil War “team,” and Dave Shultz grabbed the bat with the intention of hitting one out of the park for us. He opened his Civil War haversack (suitcase) and big question marks spilled out all over the place. It seems neither side was “goof proof.”

Look at that famous statement: “It is well that War is so terrible otherwise we should grow too fond of It.” Did Robert E. Lee really say this to Longstreet? Was it said exactly this way? Perhaps it was said to enhance the “persona” of a really great man? If Ed Bearss were standing here he would ask, “Were you there to hear him say it?” Can you believe Longstreet’s re-statement 40 years later in his memoirs? Are you beginning to pick up what Dave is laying down?

The second day is really about the defense of Cemetery Ridge. “Stuff” keeps getting in the way. Lee stands on and for principle. It makes him say things like “take that hill—if practicable.” He stands strong on policy and puts his beloved Virginia high at the pivot point. Oh, by the way, (Dave reminds us) what will the Civil War do about that many headed snake called politics?

There are bullet holes everywhere. They brighten the way for myths, legends, folklore, just plain luck, and finally — actuality. Nepotism in the Confederacy was probably a good thing. Everyone seems, in some way, to be connected and close to one another.

Wouldn’t you love to be a “mouse in the corner” to hear what Lee REALLY said to J.E.B. Stuart about all those supply wagons he delivered instead of providing enemy scouting reports that second day? Lee cherished J.E.B. as he would his own son. Are you beginning to see the complications and complexities that Dave points out? To this day no one knows for sure who told Gen. Dan Sickles to pull those troops from Little Round Top. Today we know there were discrepancies in elevations and maps.

Dave gave us a tactical overview of one very messy afternoon of fighting. The Union center is in big trouble. A gap appears in the Confederate line. Longstreet is delayed and there is an unexpected clash at Plum Run Ravine. Finally, at 8:15 p.m., the Union counterattacks with the NY 111<sup>th</sup> right in the thick of it but receives no credit! (They had NO battle flag.) Pender, unfortunately, is mortally wounded and that gives rise to a very big missed opportunity.

**Ya just had to be there to hear what Billy Mahone was doing during this crucial time.**

Night fighting doesn't happen in the Civil War. The Confederate attack is over by 9 p.m.

“It is well that war is so terrible otherwise we should grow too fond of it.” Think about it.

Dan Fink