

BRUNSWICK CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

MEETING – October 4, 2016

GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK -THE HERO OF GETTYSBURG

SPEAKER: Perry Jamieson

Perry Jamieson presents Winfield Scott Hancock as a “FIRST.” He was first to enter this world ahead of his identical twin brother (“Hilary” Baker Hancock). While not first at West Point, he was certainly first in his superb leadership at all three days of the Gettysburg Campaign. Not unlike a thunderbolt, his skill and sheer force of character made him seek the high ground called Cemetery Ridge that first day of battle, then hold it tenaciously.

Perry asks us to look at what made “Hancock the Superb.” The man he became. Perry gave us examples of the integrity Winfield displayed to both soldier and superiors. His skills in battle quickly earned him respect from both friend and foe. **YOU GOT ONLY ONE HANCOCK.** He latched on to his duties like a bulldog and showed true grit to all who looked.

He maintained his advantage on Cemetery Ridge all three days and was uniquely in the middle of everything. There he was in *front* of his men always encouraging and leading by example. Perry suggests he might not have wanted to be first on that third day when Cemetery Ridge received the massive Confederate bombardment and subsequent charge by Pickett. He was told not to lead charges from the front possibly at the cost of his own life. Hancock answered, “Sometimes a Corp Commander’s life does not count!” *Ya just had to be there to hear Perry give us little known facts about the wound received by Hancock that third day.*

Hancock refused to leave until the battle ended. He thus inspired his troops and bent the balance of battle to a Union victory. History, Perry tells us, puts General Hancock first as the true hero of Gettysburg.

Perry observed, in closing, that a splendid presidential candidate named HANCOCK was first in the popular vote but lost to Garfield in the electoral count. We will never know how our nation might have been changed had Hancock been FIRST.

By Dan Fink