

February 15 Bob O'Brian –Jack Hinson – “The Avenging Sniper, The Legendary and Most Wanted Civil

War Sniper” (ZOOM)

John "Jack" Hinson was a wealthy plantation owner in the Dover, TN area near the border with Kentucky and Fort Donelson. His plantation, "Bubbling Springs" was home to Jack, his wife and ten children at the time of the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Union captured Fort Donelson in February of 1862 Union soldiers occupied the area. Jack Hinson was determined to keep himself and his family neutral during the War. In the Fall of 1862 two of Jack's sons were hunting when they were taken by a Union patrol. They were accused of "bushwhacking" and summarily executed and their bodies dragged through the town as an example. Jack could no longer remain neutral and he plotted his revenge, He commissioned a special long barreled rifle that would shoot accurately at distances up to half a mile. He sent his family to western Tennessee to stay with relatives and friends, closed up "Bubbling Springs" and took to the forest to become an "avenging sniper". He would make the Union pay heavily for the deaths of his sons.



About our Speaker:

Bob O'Brien was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut. He received a B.A. degree in Economics from Saint Michael's College in Vermont in 1969 and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law in 1973. He was employed at the Superior Court for the Judicial District of New Haven from 1973 until 2011. In 1977 he was appointed an Assistant State's Attorney and from 1987 until his retirement in May of 2011 he was Supervisory Attorney for the office's Career Criminal Division. His interest in the Civil War goes back to his grammar school days. He now devotes much of his time to researching and speaking on various topics. He has given many presentations to Civil War Roundtables and Historical Societies. Bob is an Advisory Board member of the South Central Connecticut Civil War Roundtable. He is also a member of the Irish History Roundtable, The Connecticut Irish American Historical Society, the Connecticut Historical Society, the New Haven Museum, and the Hamden Historical Society.