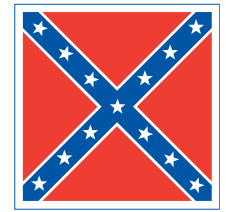


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXX, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December, 2004



636th REGULAR MEETING

DR. DAVID ZAREFSKY ON
"LINCOLN, DOUGLAS, AND
SLAVERY: IN THE CRUCIBLE
OF PUBLIC DEBATE"

★★★★★

Friday, December 10

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Chicken Trevino
with Mushroom Ragout.*

*Catch of the Day
or Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, December 6**, by calling Pepper Zenger at **630-460-1865**. We now also have a **new online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$5 per person.

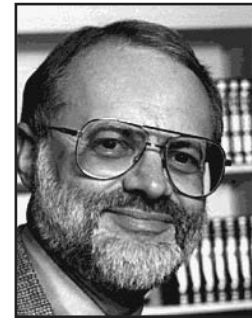
Parking is \$8 with a validated parking sticker. Tickets will be validated by the Round Table treasurer at the meeting.

DR. DAVID ZAREFSKY

- on -

"Lincoln, Douglas, and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate"

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Dr. David Zarefsky

The fact of Lincoln's rhetorical greatness is well known, observes Professor Zarefsky, but, like everything else about our 16th president, we see it through a retrospective lens that is unavoidably distorted by our knowledge of his assassination. In other words, precisely because Abraham Lincoln is a national hero and martyr, we have lost sight of some of his depth and complexity. Many people, for instance, labor under the false notion that Lincoln was always a skilled public communicator. Or that he and Stephen A. Douglas met in their famous debates while they were running against each other for the presidency.

In fact, Lincoln, a frontier lawyer who had less than a year of formal schooling and described his own origins as "the short and simple annals of the poor", had to learn the art of democratic persuasion amid the intense political and moral debates that gripped America during the middle third of the 19th century, especially the controversy over slavery and its expansion that culminated in the Civil War. Professor Zarefsky will show how he reflected upon the issues of his day and the nature of the American promise, how he both shaped and was shaped by public opinion, how he responded to changing events and circumstances, and how he behaved in the cut and thrust of debate with formidable opponents such as Stephen A. Douglas.

David Zarefsky is Professor of Communication Studies at Northwestern

University, where he has taught for over 30 years. He received his Bachelor of Science, Master's, and Ph.D. from Northwestern University. From 1988 through 2000, he served as the Dean of the School of Speech. A nationally recognized authority on rhetoric and forensics, he is a past president of the National Communication Association (NCA) and recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award in 1994 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2001. On no fewer than 12 occasions, his outstanding lecturing skills have been recognized by the inclusion of his name on Northwestern's Associated Student Government Honor Roll for Teaching.

Dr. Zarefsky has authored five books, edited three more, and has published over 50 scholarly articles and reviews. He received the 1986 National

Communication Association's Winans-Wichelns Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Rhetoric and Public Address for his book *President Johnson's War on Poverty: Rhetoric and History*, and the same

award again in 1991 for *Lincoln, Douglas, and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate*. He currently is working on the controversy surrounding the annexation of Texas during the 1840's and on the legal and political dispute following the 2000 election and culminating in the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case of *Bush v. Gore*.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Beneficiaries of CWRT Donations Send Thanks: At its September meeting, the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee voted to give \$1,000 each to Save the Franklin (Tennessee) Battlefield, Inc. (STFB) and to the Civil War Preservation Trust's (CWPT) campaign to help the National Park Service acquire land at Shiloh. At the same time we agreed to send a \$300 donation to the Friends of Raymond (Mississippi) Battlefield in anticipation of the 2005 battlefield tour to Vicksburg. We received acknowledgments recently in a letter from Jim Lighthizer, president of CWPT, and in the newsletter of the Save the Franklin Battlefield organization.

From Jim Lighthizer came hearty thanks to "all the folks at the Chicago CWRT." As he put it: "Chalk one up for the good guys! You have helped to preserve an additional important piece of history at Shiloh Battlefield. Thanks to your contribution of \$1,000, CWPT has helped save this hallowed ground." The land in question is a ten-acre plot inside the southeast corner of the park's congressionally authorized boundary—a plot where men from Ohio and Illinois helped form a last line of defense for Grant's army late on the battle's first day. Our help and that of others supports the Trust's purchase of this acreage, which has remained in private ownership since the establishment of Shiloh National Military Park in 1894; the Trust, in turn, will sell the land to the National Park Service. For additional information about the Civil War Preservation Trust, visit its Web site at www.civilwar.org.

As reported in the October issue of the Save the Franklin Battlefield newsletter, our contribution of \$1,000 will help pay for the 3.22-acre Collins Farm, which was purchased in 2001. (The farm encompasses core battlefield acreage located on the far Confederate right/Union left at Franklin; in the fading daylight of 30 November 1864, it was the site of a

futile assault by Loring's division of the Army of Tennessee on strongly entrenched Union defenders.) The article about our gift concluded as follows: "The Chicago CWRT, and its individual members, have financially assisted our preservation efforts many times during the last ten years. They are frequent visitors to Franklin.... Our local preservation projects are possible only because of the steadfast help that the Chicago and other CWRT's have provided." For additional information about the Collins Farm acquisition and other activities of Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc., visit the group's Web site at www.franklin-stfb.org.

"Civil War Month" Activities at DuPage County Historical Museum Raise Flag Funds: As reported by Roger Bohn in the September and November newsletters, a variety of educational activities at the DuPage County Historical Museum during October (and early November) had as their common goal the raising of funds to help restore the flag of the 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment (aka the "Fox Valley Regiment). The flag restoration endeavor is an ongoing, collaborative one involving the CWRT of Chicago, Salt Creek CWRT, Sons of Union Veterans, DuPage County Historical Museum, DuPage County Historical Society, and the Illinois National Guard & Military History Museum. In total, the month-long series of events raised \$3,500 toward the \$22,000 needed to preserve the banner of the 36th Illinois. According to BPF committee member Steve Stewart, who has taken a leading role in the flag restoration project, after one year of fundraising this joint effort has accumulated roughly \$10,000. It can be done!

CVBT and CWPT Continue Effort to Protect Chancellorsville's Eastern Approach: *On the Skirmish Line*, the newsletter of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT), reported the

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org.

following "success" at Chancellorsville in its fall newsletter: "The Civil War Preservation Trust and a local development company named Tricord Homes have reached an agreement to preserve 140 acres of the May 1, 1863 battlefield. In the opening stages of the Chancellorsville Campaign,...the two sides collided on May 1st, 1863, on this land that has just been pulled out of the path of the bulldozers." While 55 acres of the noted 140 had been rezoned for commercial use, recent, heightened awareness of preservation values in Spotsylvania County (Virginia) was instrumental in Tricord Homes' agreement to sell the 140-acre tract (north of the Orange Turnpike) that it purchased from landowner John Mullins to the Civil War Preservation Trust for \$3 million. Tricord will build an age-restricted (senior) residential development on 87 adjacent acres, with the 294 houses "well away from the preserved battlefield."

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and the Civil War Preservation Trust will work together to raise the noted \$3 million. As they do so, they also are collaborating in an effort to purchase an additional 150 acres between the just-acquired 140-acre plot and the border of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. According to *On the Skirmish Line*, "this second step will complete the effort to protect the eastern gateway of the Chancellorsville battlefield."

NOVEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On Nov. 12th Dorothy E. Kelly gave an interesting presentation on “A Want of Confidence: The Failure of Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign” before 86 members and guests at the 635th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Kelly is past president and current board member of the Knoxville Civil War Round Table. She has written several articles for Civil War magazines on East Tennessee’s war, and is a strong supporter of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. Her presentation focused on the long-neglected importance of eastern Tennessee in Civil War Studies, and in particular the events and cases of the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Knoxville on November 29, 1863.

Through the hilly, rugged terrain of eastern Tennessee ran the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, the shortest and most direct rail connection between the capitol and the west. This one-gauge railroad stretched from Richmond, Virginia to Knoxville to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with connections from there to Memphis and Atlanta. The railroad moved Confederate troops and supplies during the first two years of the conflict. East Tennessee was one of the graineries of the Confederacy; an estimated two million pounds of much-needed bacon were produced in this area during the war. East Tennessee also contained the largest concentration of Union sympathizers in the Confederacy, most notably Senator (and future president) Andrew Johnson. The Union army, and in particular President Lincoln, made east Tennessee a focus of their efforts, while the Confederates strove to hold the area. Kelly asserts, “Tennessee was the keystone of the Confederate arch. It would be a severe blow for the Confederacy to lose eastern Tennessee.”

In late 1863 Union General Ambrose Burnside’s Union forces invaded and seized east Tennessee against only nominal Confederate opposition. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet and two divisions of Lee’s army were sent west to assist Braxton Bragg’s Confederate Army of Tennessee. Longstreet helped win the

battle of Chickamauga. However, Bragg and Longstreet disagreed about besieging Chattanooga, about strategy, and just about everything else. To get rid of his troublesome subordinate, Bragg ordered Longstreet to gather 18,000 soldiers and retake east Tennessee, then return quickly to Chattanooga.

The plan stalled immediately when Bragg couldn’t furnish Longstreet with sufficient supplies and transportation to move his army quickly. Faced with what he thought was a superior Confederate army, Burnside withdrew into the Union defenses surrounding Knoxville.

Longstreet realized that the bluffs on the south side of the Holston (now the Tennessee) River, overlooking Knoxville, were a strong artillery position from which to bombard Union defenses. However, the Union army had forts on those bluffs, and when Wheeler’s Confederate cavalry probed the defenses they were repulsed. As a result, Longstreet felt he was forced to attack the northwestern defenses of Knoxville.

The Union line, one mile west of Knoxville, was anchored at Fort Loudon (soon to be named Fort Sanders), an earthen fort connected to earthworks spreading to the south and east. The line had a 2 mile long clear field of fire, and to make matters more difficult for attackers, the Union engineers dammed creeks and created ponds to impede any attack. Faced with this formidable line, Longstreet (who had surrounded Knoxville and besieged Burnside’s army) hesitated to attack. Four times Longstreet planned, then rescinded, attacks. Kelly speculated that Longstreet lost confidence in his own leadership.

Longstreet finally decided to assault Fort Sanders on Nov. 29th. Kelly observed, “Longstreet desired a surprise attack with McLaws’s division, but gave the chief of artillery, E. P. Alexander, only 10 minutes to bombard the Union fort.” Three brigades of excellent Confederate troops attacked at dawn, but quickly ran into obstacles such as telegraph wires tied to tree stumps which tripped them up. The Confederates reached the ditch fronting the fort’s walls,

a ditch Longstreet thought so shallow that the troops didn’t need scaling ladders, but which turned out to be 6-8 feet deep. The wall rising above the ditch was 16 feet high, and to exacerbate conditions, rain had frozen on the slopes of the wall, making it so slippery as to be almost unclimbable. The Confederates were trapped in the ditch. Union defenders, seeing this, lighted cannon shells and lobbed them over the wall, the improvised grenades having murderous effect. Some Confederates made it to the top of the wall but were soon killed. The brave Confederates, facing withering fire from rifles and cannons, could not dig a foothold in the walls to climb up. They were slaughtered.

Kelly exclaimed, “A vicious short hot battle ended within 20 minutes. Longstreet wisely called off a second wave of attackers.” In this extremely one-sided battle the Union army suffered 13 casualties—the Confederate casualties numbered 813! Longstreet’s first attempt (and, as it turned out, final attempt) as a commanding general was a complete disaster. Kelly concluded, “The failure at Knoxville was due to a want of confidence that Longstreet had in himself. In early 1864 Longstreet tried to blame Lafayette McLaws for a want of confidence at Knoxville, but Longstreet had a want of confidence and failed.”



CIVIL WAR CIVILIAN CONFERENCE

Midwest Civil War Civilian Education, Inc. will present its fourth annual “Civil War Civilian Conference”, Jan. 28-30, 2005, at the Holiday Inn, 800 S. Rte. 31, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. A “weekend of learning and enjoyment” is promised, with lectures on different aspects of Civil War civilian life and hands-on workshops. Friday evening features a period dress reception and Saturday night a “show & tell” display of original Civil War items. Vendors will be present. For registration and information contact Marta Vincent at (847) 683-0071 or midwestcivilian@aol.com, or visit their website at www.midwestcivilian.com.

GRAPESHOT



General Thomas (aka President Jerry Kowalski) spoke in October to the Montclair Kiwanis Club (about himself and election of 1864), and in November spoke to the Des Plaines Optimist Club (about the positive things that came out of the Recent Unpleasantness).

CWRT ex-President Marshall Krolick will speak to the McHenry County CWRT Dec. 8th.

CWRT ex-President Bill Sullivan will be speaking to the Beverly-Ridge Lions Club on December 9th. The topic is "Forging the Spearpoint"—how the regiments were recruited in Northern Illinois.

CWRT Tape Librarian Hal Ardell has tapes and CDs of past talks which are available to members. His recommendation for this month is Bruce Catton speaking on "The Army of the Potomac: A Problem of Command", a talk given on June 21, 1952. Contact Hal at the meeting or email him at hal229@ameritech.net.

The CWRT's "best friend", Ed Bearss, will be awarded an honorary PHD in History from Lincoln College, Lincoln, IL, Feb. 13, 2005. CWRT ex-President, and Lincoln College trustee, Marvin Sanderman invites members of the CWRT to attend.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@aol.com or (847) 375-8305.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by Ralph G. Newman and other members. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum raise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.

PARKING UPDATE

The Holiday Inn's parking lot, on the south side of the Holiday Inn, is now open for us to park in. The remote parking lot at the corner of Hubbard and Orleans Streets will no longer accept our parking passes and should NOT be used.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with regret that I must inform you that David Zucker has resigned his position as Treasurer of the CWRT. He will continue to be an active member. I have taken the following actions as a result of this occurrence.

1. Assistant Treasurer Roger Rudich will advance to fill the vacancy caused by David's departure.
2. Assistant Secretary Jerry Allen will step up into the position of Assistant Treasurer.
3. Trustee Rae Radovich will assist Steve Stewart in the role of Assistant Secretary.

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD

We are very fortunate to have, as next month's speaker, **Terry Winschel** of the Vicksburg National Military Park. There is no better friend of our CWRT, and the CWRT movement in general, than Terry, and we hope everybody can come to see him get our Nevins-Freeman Award.

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated.*

December 10: Dr. David Zarefsky, "Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: In the Crucible of Public Debate"
January 14, 2005: Terry Winschel, "Stephen D. Lee and the Making of an American Shrine" **Nevins-Freeman Award Presentation**

February 11: Rev. Bob Miller, "Both Prayed to the Same God—Religion, Faith and the Civil War"

March 11: Bruce Allardice, "The Vote To Win the War: The Election of 1864"

April 8: Kent Gramm, To be announced
April 28-May 1: Annual battlefield tour—Vicksburg

May 13: Dan Nettlesheim, "Windfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General"

June 10: Nat Hughes, The Civil War as seen through the eyes of Robert Stiles, ANV"

NEW MEMBERS

Sarah A. McDougall
 6415 John Street
 Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

Gilbert C. Mitchell
 36 E. Hickory Street
 Hinsdale, Illinois 60521

Charles Tonelli
 120 W. Briar Lane
 Green Bay, Wisconsin 54301

George W. Walker
 3250 Park Place
 Evanston, Illinois 60201

Have a Happy Holiday Season, and best wishes for the New Year!