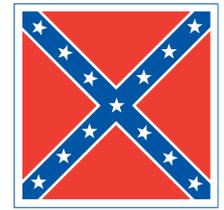


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXX, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 2005



638th REGULAR MEETING

ROBERT J. MILLER
ON
"BOTH PRAYED TO THE SAME GOD" – RELIGION, FAITH AND THE CIVIL WAR

★★★★★

Friday, February 11

★★★★★

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 Venetian.

Catch of the Day

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, February 7**, by calling **630-460-1865**. We now also have a **new online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, Feb. 9 will be surcharged \$5.

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.

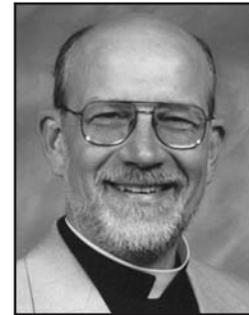
Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$8 with a validated parking sticker.

ROBERT J. MILLER

- on -

"Both prayed to the same God" – Religion, Faith and the Civil War

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Robert J. Miller

It was an extremely devout country that went to war in 1861, and yet perhaps the most ignored topic in Civil War study has been the role that religion and faith played in it. From the very beginning of the United States, we have "been awash in a sea of faith", as historian Jon Butler has stated. Notre Dame historian George Marsden said that "American history recounted without its religious history is like *Moby Dick without the whale*." Religion played an enormous motivational role in the founding of our entire American social system, as well as culture and everyday life.

100 years later, on eve of the Civil War, this had not changed very much. Before, during and after the traumatic war years, religion and faith had a deep, pervasive influence on politicians, soldiers and civilians alike. Indeed, mid-19th century America was rampant with religious belief and attitudes. It was an age of tremendous evangelical fervor, and organized religion was an essential component of the time. It was religious congregations that brought more people together on a regular basis than any other cultural or voluntary institution in the country (and continues to up to this day!)

During the war, the single greatest institution in maintaining morale among soldiers was their faith in God. Faith had enormous role in motivation and attitudes of a huge number of soldiers—perhaps up to 1/2 of all CW soldiers by one estimate. James McPherson says

"The conclusion drawn from a study of GI's in World War II holds true for Civil War soldiers as well: religious faith did not **impel** the individual towards combat but did serve the important function of increasing his resources for **enduring** the conflict-ridden situation of combat stress."

From chaplains to chapels, Northern "social Gospel" to Southern evangelicals, Lost Cause mythology to proslavery theology, there is much to be discussed and learned about religion and faith in our Civil War.

Rev. Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest of 29 years who has traveled and preached extensively across the country. Born in Michigan and educated in Wisconsin and New York seminaries, presently Bob is ministering at Holy Angels Church in inner-city Chicago. He is also the founder and Chair of Genesis Housing Development Corporation, a 5-church collaborative building affordable housing. He received two Masters degrees with honors, in Religious Education and Divinity, and is the author of 5 books on spirituality and faith. For over a decade, he has

taught Church History at the University of St. Mary of the Lake's lay ministry and deacon formation program. A longtime student of the Civil War and its religious ramifications, Bob will be the 2005-06 President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. He is presently researching and writing a book on religion, faith and the Civil War.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Time for the Fourth Annual Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award Has Arrived: Members of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee will begin accepting donations to the Ed Bearss Preservation Award "account" at our February meeting. As instituted by the Round Table executive committee in mid-2001, the Bearss Award honors our good friend and longtime battlefield tour leader by contributing \$1,000 in his name to the preservation project/organization that Ed himself regards as most worthwhile. The initial recipient was the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, followed by the Kernstown Battlefield Association and, last year, the Land Conservancy of Adams County (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). All organizations maintain proven track records of effective preservation advocacy. Ed will announce his decision regarding this year's awardee during our 55th annual battlefield tour to Vicksburg (April 28-May 1).

Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association (NBPA) Acknowledges CWRT Donation: Over the course of three months last fall, the CWRT sponsored a drawing for an early Keith Rocco print and thus raised \$500 for the current capital campaign of the NBPA; the goal of that campaign is to fund urgently needed stabilization of the historic Ritchey Mansion so that restoration and preservation can proceed in a timely fashion.

Recently this writer received letters of thanks to the CWRT from several members of the Newtonia organization. Kay Hively, newsletter editor, wrote as follows: "What a great friend you are to our group. We greatly appreciate the \$500 sent by the Chicago Civil War Roundtable. We are honored by the thoughtfulness! We are working very hard at this time. A newsletter is in the works and you will be able to read about the current projects. I hope you will be pleasantly surprised at the strides we're making on all fronts..." From David Weems, secretary of the NBPA, comes the following statement: "Dear Friends: Thank you for your gift to the Mansion House Stabilization campaign. We especially appreciate your

extra effort in conducting a drawing just to raise funds to support us in our efforts....We will endeavor to use your gift in the most cost-effective way to restore the house."

The gratitude of both the Civil War Round Table and Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association goes to Ruth Klinger, widow of CWRT member Paul Klinger, for her generosity in donating Paul's Rocco print and approving its use to fund our preservation projects. And those who wish to support the ongoing efforts of the NBPA can join the organization by contacting Tom Higdon, c/o General Delivery, Newtonia, Missouri 64853. (Dues range from \$5 annually for seniors to \$10 annually for a regular membership to \$150 for a life membership.) For additional information on the organization and its activities, contact Kay Hively at the above address or at khively@joplin.com.

Restoration of Stuart's Hill Tract Provides Fitting End to Third Battle of Manassas: The fall 2004 issue of *Common Ground: Preserving Our National Heritage*, a journal of the NPS's National Center for Cultural Resources, related the following, satisfying story about the restoration of a significant piece of real estate—one that has been "hotly contested" in a variety of ways and on more than one occasion: "Sixteen years ago, subdivision developers began tearing up the land near the site of Robert E. Lee's summer 1862 headquarters, a large tract next to Manassas National Battlefield....The outcry was so loud that Congress seized the land. By that time, over 100 acres had been leveled.

Today, as a result of an ambitious restoration...the terrain looks very much as it did when Union and Confederate forces clashed 142 years ago. The land has been restored to within a foot of its original configuration, along with nearly all the vegetation. The remarkable turnaround hinged on two seemingly unrelated circumstances: the construction of the Smithsonian Institution's new annex to the National Air and Space Museum, and the court-martial of Fitz-John Porter for cowardice.

The annex was build on wetlands a

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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.

few miles from Dulles Airport. Under federal law, equivalent acreage had to be created, preferably in the same watershed. The Smithsonian looked to the nearby battlefield.

It was a fortunate coincidence. The National Park Service had been trying for years to undo the aborted development. For the Smithsonian, even though the developers had filled in the wetlands, restoration was cheaper than buying property in northern Virginia. The National Park Service already had a restoration plan, developed by the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design....

This is where the court-martial comes in. Accused of disobeying orders during the second battle of Manassas, General Porter was cashiered...and spent the next 15 years trying to clear his name. Eventually he was exonerated, thanks in large part to a detailed map prepared for his case. Almost a century and a half later, engineers faced with reconstructing the landscape found the map at the National Archives, virtually a template of the terrain and vegetation in 1862. The battlefield was restored by combining the map with aerial photographs and other more recent topographical data.

[Manassas Superintendent Robert] Sutton says it was Porter's desire to keep his case alive that ultimately let the land be reclaimed. 'The court-martial was very, very useful to recreate the vegetation and the contours,' he says. 'If they hadn't sent cartographers out here to do the mapping, the restoration would have been impossible.'

JANUARY MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

Each year The Civil War Round Table has chosen one Civil War scholar, one friend of the Round Table movement, for its prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award. For this year Terrance J. Winschel, historian at the Vicksburg National Military Park, received our Round Table's award. Aside from his noteworthy achievements as a speaker at Civil War events, Terry is a great supporter of preservation efforts. He has authored several books on the war, including the recent "Vicksburg is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River" (U. of Nebraska Press, 2003).

On January 14th Terry spoke on "Stephen D. Lee and the Making of An American Shrine" before 78 members and guests at the 637th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. His presentation was intended to review, to honor, and to restore the legacy of Confederate General Stephen D. Lee and Lee's efforts to create the Vicksburg National Military Park.

Winschel began, "Duty is once again a word used frequently with developments in the world in mind. Stephen D. Lee epitomized the meaning of the word duty." General Lee first gained fame in the Vicksburg Campaign on December 28, 1862, when his well prepared forces repulsed Union General William T. Sherman's attack at Chickasaw Bluffs. During the Siege of Vicksburg Grant's Union army attempted two attacks upon the strong Confederate defensive positions. When, during the May 22, 1863 attack, the Union assault briefly pierced the Confederate lines at the Railroad Redoubt, Lee's troops sealed the breach. This successful counterattack, and his stout-hearted leadership during the siege, brought Lee well-deserved recognition and eventual promotion to Lt. General.

After the conflict the deeply religious Lee became a farmer, eventually drifting into education and presidency of a university. In May, 1890, Lee was invited to speak at a Civil war veteran's event. His speech, hailing reunification of North and South, gained Lee nation-

al attention. For the duration of his life Lee was a leader of southern veterans.

"By 1890 the battlefield at Vicksburg was all but forgotten by many Americans," stated Winschel. "The Civil war veterans desired to have a spokesman to help memorialize all who fought and died at Vicksburg." By 1895, four national military parks had been established, commemorating the battles of Chickamauga, Antietam, Shiloh and Gettysburg. General Lee became a relentless proponent for a national military park at Vicksburg.

Lee was a natural choice to head the newly formed Vicksburg National Military Park Association, an organization formed to lobby Congress for a national military park at Vicksburg. The group took a survey of the proposed park and stressed future economic benefits to the city of Vicksburg. Their proposed park encompassed 1200 acres of land, including both the Union siege lines and the Confederate defenses. However, their proposal met severe opposition in Congress, with many Congressmen deeming the proposal too elaborate and too expensive. Lee and his supporters were frustrated by legislative inaction over the next few years. Often the bill to approve the park came close to passage, but failed to become law.

Another war—the Spanish American War of 1898—sparked a renewed spirit of patriotism. Congressional resistance to the bill diminished, and on February 21, 1899, President William McKinley, the last Civil War veteran to occupy the White House, signed the bill into law, establishing the Vicksburg battlefield as the fifth national military park in the United States. The law called for a three member commission to manage the park, to include two Union army veterans and one Confederate. Lee was the natural choice to fill the "Confederate" spot. In recognition of his efforts, Stephen D. Lee was appointed the head of the commission.

Stephen D. Lee "passed over the river" on May 28, 1908. Today, the

Vicksburg National Military Park includes 1800 acres, welcomes one million visitors annually, and generates about \$100 million for the economy of the Vicksburg region. The legacy of Stephen D. Lee has been the formation and preservation of the Vicksburg battlefield. Well might General Lee believe that his perseverance has been rewarded, his duty fulfilled. As Winschel observed, "Robert E. Lee [a distant cousin of Stephen] stated that duty was the greatest word in the English language. The whole heart, mind and soul of Stephen D. Lee symbolized that duty."

CIVIL WAR MAPS NOW ONLINE

A new Library of Congress online collection could let you trace your Civil War ancestor's footsteps into battle or see whether soldiers dug trenches on his farm. The Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov>), Virginia Historical Society (<http://www.vahistorical.org>) and Library of Virginia (<http://www.lva.lib.va.us>) have teamed up to post nearly 3,000 Civil War maps, charts, atlases and sketchbooks at http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/civil_war_maps. You can search the collection or browse by title, subject, place or creator. To view an image, zoom in and click to navigate, or, if you have the MrSid plug-in, download the whole thing.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSN. MEETING

The ALA is holding its annual Lincoln Symposium and Banquet Feb. 12th in Springfield, Illinois. Scheduled to speak are Herman Belz, Donald Farber, Phillip Shaw Paludan, Sandra F. Van Burkleo and Mark Plummer. The symposium presentations begin at 1 p.m. The banquet (tickets \$50 apiece) follows. If interested, contact Cathy Le Conte at (217) 747-5502, or visit the ALA website at www.alincolnassoc.com.

GRAPESHOT



Ron White, author of "Lincoln's Greatest Speech", will be at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, Thursday, Feb. 24th, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., to sign copies of his new book, "The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words". If you cannot attend but would like to order a signed or inscribed copy, call the shop at (312) 944-3085.

CWRT member Larry Hewitt will be speaking on "The Legacy of Ken Burns' Civil War" at the Blue & Gray Education Association's March 3-5, 2005 symposium at the Holiday Inn Oceanfront, Hilton Head Island. Other speakers include Richard McMurry and Ken Noe. Details of the program can be found under 2005 seminars at the BGES web site at www.blue-and-gray-education.org.

"Loyalty and Loss. Alabama's Unionists in the Civil War and Reconstruction", is the title of a new book by Margaret M. Storey, associate professor of history at DePaul University in Chicago. The book was the basis for an article published in the October 2004 issue of *North & South* magazine.

Borders bookstore in Deerfield sponsors a Civil War discussion group, which meets the 4th Thursday of each month. For more information, contact Candy Spreckman at (847) 914-9294.

CWRT member Dave Corbett, a "Battlefield Balladeer", has come out with a CD of Civil War music titled "About Played Out". For more information, or to order, email Dave at corbett-trex@msn.com.

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the January 22nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the CWRT, several important decisions were made. First and foremost, member dues will be reduced \$5 for the 2005-2006 year for people paying their dues by September 1st, 2005. Second, Pepper Zenger has had to resign as trustee and registrar due to illness. Joellen Kowalski was elected to fill Pepper's trustee post, and Jerry Allen will take over as tour registrar. Third, effective immediately, members who make dinner reservations less than 2 days prior to our monthly Friday meeting (i.e., after that Wednesday) will be surcharged \$5. We have had trouble with last minute reservations upsetting our dinner count with the hotel, and the surcharge is intended to prompt members to make reservations earlier.

FRANK VANDIVER DIES

Frank E. Vandiver died January 10th at the age of 79. The author of more than 20 books and 100 scholarly articles, Vandiver received our Round Table's Nevins-Freeman Award in 1982. He first spoke to The CWRT in 1947 (at age 22!) on the subject of "Josiah Gorgas". A true giant in the Civil War field, Vandiver served (at various times) as president of Texas A&M, University of North Texas, and Rice University, and taught history at West Point. He will be missed.

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*.

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 Nettesheim, "Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General"

June 10: Nat Hughes, "Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A."

NEW MEMBERS

John Barriger
155 Melrose Avenue
Kenilworth, Illinois 60043

James Glickman
1301 Lowerline Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Robert Haraldson
Box 73595, 509 St. Clair Ave., West
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