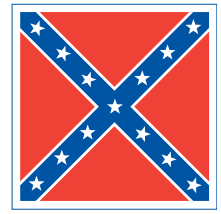


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXIX, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 2008



673rd REGULAR MEETING

Peter Cozzens

on

“The 1862 Valley Campaign Reconsidered”

★★★★★

Friday, September 12

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Sliced Striploin, Catch of the Day, Vegetarian Plate or Fruit Plate

please note

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Sept. 8** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net with the names of your party and their choice of entree. Reservations made after Wednesday, Sept. 10, will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday to avoid a charge.

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 \$10 with a validated parking sticker.

Peter Cozzens

on

“The 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign Reconsidered”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

British Field Marshal Lord Roberts once remarked, “In my opinion Stonewall Jackson was one of the greatest natural military geniuses the world ever saw. I will go even further than that—as a campaigner in the field he never had a superior.” General Douglas MacArthur lauded Jackson as “one of the most remarkable soldiers we have ever known.” In large part Stonewall’s reputation rests on the 1862 Valley Campaign, which, in historian and biographer Bud Robertson’s words, made him “arguably the most famous field commander in the world.”

On Sept. 12, Pete Cozzens will explore the campaign that made Stonewall immortal. He will focus on a number of popular conceptions, or in some cases, misconceptions, regarding the Valley campaign, including the notions: that the Union generals who opposed Jackson were hopelessly inept; that Jackson’s “foot cavalry” routinely out-marched their Federal counterparts; that Jackson fought the individual battles of the campaign ably – even brilliantly; that President Lincoln panicked in response to Jackson’s victory at Winchester and his subsequent march on Harper’s Ferry; and that Jackson’s officers and men held him in high regard during the campaign. He will



Peter Cozzens

close with an estimation of the strategic significance of the campaign.

A summa cum laude graduate of Knox College, Peter Cozzens is an award winning Foreign Service Officer with the U. S. Department of State and one of the nation’s leading military historians. He is the author of sixteen critically acclaimed books on the American Civil War and the Indian Wars of the American West.

All of his books have been selections of the Book of the Month Club, History Book Club, and/or the Military Book Club. Cozzens’ This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga

and The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga were both Main Selections of the History Book Club and were chosen by Civil War Magazine as two of the 100 greatest works ever written on the conflict. A precocious Chicago-area native, Pete gave his first CWRT talk (to Salt Creek) at age 17. Tonight’s talk is based on his new book, Shenandoah 1862.



Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

Cedar Creek: In a bitter blow to supporters of the Cedar Creek Battlefield, the Frederick County Board of Supervisors voted May 28th to expand a limestone mining operation across hundreds of acres of core battlefield.

"We were horribly disappointed," said Wendy Hamilton, President of the local group preserve property. Jim Campi, spokesman for the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), warned that the supervisors' decision could cast a pall over future preservation efforts at Cedar Creek.

The 4-3 vote by the supervisors ok'd a request by O-N Minerals Chemstone to rezone 394 acres from agricultural use to mining. The approval allows Chemstone to expand both north and south of its current mining operation at Cedar Creek.

Campi, who has worked closely with Preserve Frederick and a coalition of preservation groups, noted that on the northern part of the re-zoned land, Union cavalry under George Custer struck the exposed left flank of the Confederate lines at the climax of the battle, October 19, 1864.

But now said Hamilton the existing mine plus the newly rezoned areas would enable Chemstone to create "a 2.5-3 mile hold in the ground." O-N minerals Chemstone is a subsidiary of Carmeuse lime & Stone based in Belgium.

Hamilton's group worked for two years to defeat the re-zoning. CWPT was a strong ally, but the coalition also included the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the new Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park, among others.

Preserve Frederick hired a professional planner and last August came up with "Plan B." It called for canceling the rezoning on the area to the north of this current operation, where much of the union counter attack occurred.

The rezoning would have been allowed only in the area to the south which is already heavily impacted visually by the existing mine. The plan also called for 200 foot buffers to protect Cedar Creek and screen the mining from the adjacent landowners.

Hamilton said the compromise never received serious consideration. "We did everything by the letter" she said. "We left emotion out of it. We let everybody know what we were doing. And we got harshly criticized."

"This will be extremely disappointing to those who truly care about preserving this hallowed ground."

Just days before the supervisors vote, Chemstone reduced its rezoning request from 639 acres to 394, in an apparent bid to win support. But Hamilton said the acreage that was removed from the rezoning was not slated for mining anyway; "they basically put a belt around the 639 acres and sucked it all into 394 acres. It did no good."

Preserve Frederick wasn't the only member of the coalition to attempt a compromise. Diann Jacox, Superintendent at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park, was concerned about the impact of the rezoning on her part.

"Significant parts of the battlefield will be compromised," Jacox said. "This is going to be very visible to us." While the park so far

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Phone: 630-460-1865
www.thecwrt.org

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 bsallardice1@earthlink.net.



owns only 7.5 acres, it has a 3,500 acre boundary adjoining Chemstone. (The park does not encompass Chemstone land because the re-zoning Jacox said, would result in an even greater visual impact on the land within the park boundary.) "The mine is not a pleasant sight to see, and now it will expand onto acreage that could have been preserved. We have provided no protection for the battlefield."

Within days of the vote to re-zone the property, CWPT wrote to Chemstone asking to sit down and discuss a purchase. Campi said the trust would likely focus on Chemstone land that had not been re-zoned.

All in all said Campi, the re-zoning represents "one of the bigger losses" in recent years by the Civil War Preservation Community.

All Info Courtesy July 2008 *Civil War News*

June Meeting

BY TOM TRESMOTT

On June 13, **Bill Farina** spoke to 87 members and guests at the 672nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on "U.S. Grant". Based on his 2007 book [Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1864: His Rise from Obscurity to Military Greatness](#), and with an accompanying visual presentation, the speaker reminded the group that Grant was the wild card of the War, and arguably the most powerful man in the conflict.

Farina outlined the familiar Grant story, what Grant's biographer Jean E. Smith called one of the greatest in American history: reluctantly entering the army; an indifferent student at West Point; exemplary service in the Mexican War; a problem with alcohol afterwards; leaving the army in less than the best of circumstances; and failed businessman and farmer. And then came the Civil War. At the beginning of the War, though, Grant's services were not greatly wanted, because of the way he left the army and because he was a Democrat. Grant, however, with a single-minded confidence he would show again and again, felt he could do no worse than any other officer with a commission.

Grant would quickly show his abilities. He was astute with subordinates and sub-commanders. His chief-of-staff, Galen John A. Rawlins, was able to keep Grant sober. Grant's relationship with William T. Sherman was solidified at Shiloh, and he chose Philip Sheridan to be his creative head of cavalry when he went to face Robert E. Lee in 1864. Besides being an uncommonly good writer, Grant was also a fine artist, and very good with topography, and thus never got "lost" on a battlefield.

Grant had a worldview similar to his commander-in-chief, Abraham Lincoln, without whose support Grant would not have lasted very long in command. Like Lincoln, Grant was a Midwesterner who overcame many hurdles, and had married into a slaveholding family with strong Southern sympathies - both men had a solid understanding of the South. This Midwestern/Southern mix was typical of Grant's army, most of them "Rebels in blue suits" from Illinois and the Ohio River Valley, and distinct from the Army of the Potomac. Grant had contempt for Lincoln's counterpart, Jefferson Davis, and his cause, but not for the Confederate soldier.

Our speaker, also a scholar of Shakespeare, brought to the Round Table's attention an interesting parallel between General Grant and "Bill the Bard". Just as the true authorship of Shakespeare's plays has been questioned, so has that of Grant's Memoirs. How could, many ask, such timeless prose come from such unlikely sources? The closer that one looks, however, the more it makes sense that these two men did in fact write what they are credited with. And in almost Shakespearean irony, Grant nearly fought against a Confederate soldier named Samuel Clemens at the Battle of Belmont in 1861; a quarter of a century later, that man, now known to the world as Mark Twain, was instrumental in getting [Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant](#) published.

In conclusion, it can be said that Grant, like Lincoln, demonstrated rare personal virtues: courage, character, and steadfastness. This might explain how Ulysses S. Grant, in three short years, went from being

a failure to commanding the most powerful army in the world.

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net

Past president **Bruce Allardice's** new book, [Confederate Colonels. A Biographical Register](#), is now in print and can be ordered via University of Missouri Press, <http://press.umsystem.edu>. This single-volume compendium incorporates groundbreaking research on the lives of the Confederate army's officer corps, as well as new insights into the structure of the Confederate army.

Jerry and JoEllen Kowalski, in their personas as General and Mrs. George H. Thomas, addressed the Windsor Park Manor Senior Citizen Club in Carol Stream Aug. 28th. They will also be giving presentations at re-enactments at Lake Villa (Sept. 23 & 24), Danville (Sept. 12-14), Stockton (Oct. 4 & 5), Princeton (Oct. 11 & 12), and Minooka (Oct. 18 & 19). For further information email them at paptom@msn.com.

In keeping with the events celebrating Abraham Lincoln's 200th birthday, Lincoln Douglas debates will be held at Freeport, IL, Aug. 29-Sept. 1, Jonesboro, Sept. 12-14, and Charleston, Sept. 19-21. For more information, contact the Lincoln Bicentennial Coalition at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, (630) 469-1867. The LCB will be sponsoring Lincoln events in Du Page County throughout the next year.

GRAPESHOT



Past president **Rob Girardi** is out with his 6th book, [Campaigning with Uncle Billy. The Civil War Memoirs of Sgt. Lyman S. Widney, 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.](#) Online orders through the publisher can be made via www.trafford.com. Cost is \$29.

Eric Girardi will be speaking on "The 69th New York Volunteers of the Irish Brigade" at the South Suburban CWRT meeting Sept. 25th.

Our June speaker, **Bill Farina**, will be speaking on "Ulysses S. Grant 1861-1864" at the Blue Island CWRT, 12804 Highland Ave., Blue Island, Tuesday, Sept. 16th, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5. For more information, phone (708) 385-3304 or visit www.blueislandparks.org.

CWRT past president **Bruce Allardice** is now heading up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). Anyone who has information on a Civil War soldier who played major league baseball (so far 34 have been found) should contact Bruce at the email below.

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

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Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Symposium at Cantigny

The National Archives is sponsoring its 11th annual Civil War Symposium Saturday, October 18th at Cantigny. The CWRT is a co-sponsor of this event, titled "Abraham Lincoln as War President." The great lineup of speakers includes Paul Finkleman on "the Emancipation Proclamation," Harold Holzer on "Current Lincoln Scholarship," Trevor Plante on "Lincoln Records in the National Archives," and Tom Schwartz on "Lincoln and the Copperhead Movement in Illinois." Cost for the general public is \$40, however, CWRT members can get in at half price. For more information, contact the National Archives Great Lakes Region at (773) 948-9001, or email Chicago.archives@nara.gov.

A list of current CWRT officers will be published in next month's newsletter.

The Auditorium Theatre in Chicago will be showing a new American opera, Margaret Garner, starting Nov. 1st. This show is based on the life of an escaped slave who murdered her young daughter rather than have the daughter re-enslaved. For more information, visit www.auditoriumtheatre.org.

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.*

Sept. 12: **Pete Cozzens,**

"The 1862 Valley Campaign Reconsidered"

Oct. 17: **Gloria Swift,**

"Ford's Theater Secrets Revealed!"

Nov. 14: **Rick Hatcher,**

"Fort Sumter - 1829 to 1947"

Dec. 12: **Craig Symonds,**

"Lincoln and His Admirals"

Jan. 9, 2009: **Frank O'Reilly,**
TBD

Feb. 13: Nevins Freeman Address.

Bruce Allardice, "Lincoln as a War Leader"

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be Sept. 13th, featuring noted authors Pete Cozzens and Noah Andre Trudeau and their new books. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincolnbookshop.com

Our friends at the new **Civil War Museum in Kenosha, WI**, will be sponsoring a Civil War Forum this Sept. 13th. Speakers include **Dr. Gordon Dammann**, Scott Wolfe, and Dan Nettesheim. For more information, phone (262) 653-4140 or visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org. The Kenosha Museum has a number of events planned for the next two months, including a bus tour of Eastern Civil War sites.