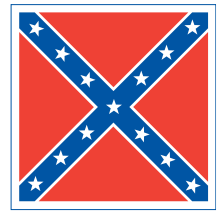


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXX, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January, 2010



687th REGULAR MEETING

Robert I. Girardi

on

“Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign”

★★★★★

Friday, January 8

★★★★★

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: Chicken Napoleon,
Fish, Vegetarian Plate or
Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Jan. 4 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net, with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

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.

Robert I. Girardi on Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

There’s an old military maxim, “Amateurs talk strategy; Professionals talk logistics”. No one better understood the truth of this maxim than William T. Sherman. “Cump” Sherman (as his friends called him) realized that the 1864 Atlanta Campaign was all about railroads. As Sherman observed at the time, “provisions”, not the Confederate army, “was the most difficult of my problems.” Sherman knew his army was large enough to take Atlanta—provided he could feed and resupply them along the one railroad that led south from his base in Chattanooga to the “Gate City.” The Confederates knew that too, and made several efforts to cut that supply line.

On Jan. 8th Robert I. Girardi will discuss how Cump Sherman protected his rear. During the campaign Sherman worried more about Confederate cavalry in his rear than about the Army of Tennessee to his front. Thus Sherman assigned thousands of Union soldiers to guard the railroads, to rebuild burned bridges, and to fend off raids by Bedford Forrest and Joe Wheeler. Sherman launched thousands more Union soldiers on raids into Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, to keep busy the very Confederate cavalry who could threaten his supply lines.



Robert I. Girardi

Robert Girardi is a past president of the Civil War Table of Chicago, and currently serves as the Vice President of the Salt Creek Round Table. Girardi earned his MA in Public History at Loyola University of Chicago, and is currently employed as a homicide detective by the Chicago Police Department. Girardi has authored or edited seven books, including The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco (2009); Campaigning with Uncle Billy: The Civil War Memoirs of Sgt. Lyman S.

Widney, 34th Illinois Volunteer Infantry (2008); The Soldier’s View: The Civil War Art of Keith Rocco (2004); The New Annals of the Civil War (2004); The

Memoirs of Brigadier General William Passmore Carlin, U.S.A. (1999); The Military Memoirs of General John Pope (1998); and Captain H.W. Chester: Recollections of the War of the Rebellion (1996).

He is on the editorial review board of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society and has consulted for the Chicago Historical Society on its Civil War exhibits.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Washington, D.C- The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) hopes to raise \$2.125 million in order to buy 85 acres at Chancellorsville by the end of the year.

The so-called Wagner Tract is “one of the most historically significant unprotected landscapes of the entire Civil War,” said CWPT President James Lighthizer.

It was there that Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson led the May 2, 1863, 12-mile flanking march around the Federal right that turned the battle in favor of the South. Heavy fighting took place on this property. Hours later Confederate pickets mistakenly shot Jackson.

Lighthizer said there is a limited window of availability to receive state funding. Projects in Virginia are eligible to participate in a 2 to 1 matching grant program through the end of the year. The state appropriated \$5 million for battlefield preservation, but projects must close by the end of 2009.

CWPT’s Deputy Director of Communications Mary Goundrey Koik said, “The state legislature saw that investing in land preservation now could create a lasting and meaningful legacy as we commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial, a message that we hope others also embrace.”

“This (state funds) is in addition to federal matching grants available to preserve historic battlefield land outside of national parks, leaving CWPT to raise less than half the purchase price from private donations,” said Lighthizer in a press release.

Historian Robert K. Krick called

saving the Wagner Tract a “preservation coup” and spectacular success.”

The Wagner Tract, just east of Wilderness Church, includes nearly 2,000 feet of frontage on the north shoulder of the historic Orange Plank Road.

“Extinguishing the potential for dense commercial use along that long stretch seems to me to constitute the most dazzling jewel in the CWPT’s long and impressive history of preserving hallowed ground,” said Krick.

Koik described the tract as “beautiful, open space fronting along Route 3 and also some wooded areas back from the road.”

When CWPT first negotiated purchase of the property from Frank Wagner of Fredericksburg, it was for 80 acres at \$1.525 million. An additional five acres was added to the sale, bringing the price to \$2.125 million.

The Battle of Chancellorsville is considered to be one of the most critical engagements of the Civil War. Gen. Robert E. Lee divided his outnumbered army, sending Stonewall Jackson on the flanking march around the Army of the Potomac. Jackson was able to launch a full-scale attack on the unsuspecting Union Eleventh Corps.

In recognition of the property’s historic value and the funds needed, CWPT will acknowledge every donation of \$100 or more on a permanent plaque at the battlefield site. Larger donations will be differentiated.

Maps, recent and historic photos and a video of Krick describing

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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,

1039 Hinswood

Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact

bsa1861@att.net.

the tract’s significance can be seen at the Chancellorsville09 link on CWPT’s Web site www.civilwar.org. Pictures can also be seen at www.flickr.com/photos/cwpt/sets/72157603692978833.

CWPT has previously preserved other key portions of the Chancellorsville Battlefield, including 215 acres that were the scene of the fighting along the

Orange Turnpike on May 1, 1863. Now interpreted and open to the public as the First Day at Chancellorsville Battlefield Park, the site has become a popular historic destination.

CWPT also participated in the protection of two other tracts on the battlefield, including 16 additional acres associated with Stonewall Jackson’s flank attack.

Donations for the Wagner Tract purchase can be made at www.civilwar.org or mailed to PO Box 17686, Baltimore, MD 21297-1686

(from December’s “Civil War News”)

Lincoln Exhibit at Newberry Library

Honest Abe of the West, an exhibition organized by the Newberry Library, will open on October 10, 2009, to commemorate the 200th birthday of America's sixteenth president. Lincoln-related artifacts from the Newberry's collections will accompany the Library of Congress's traveling exhibition, *With Malice Toward None*, also on display at the Newberry beginning October 10 (and ending Dec. 19th).

Honest Abe of the West chronicles Lincoln's early years in Illinois, focusing on his career as an attorney in Springfield and as a dedicated leader of the Whig Party. Rare copies of printed materials in the exhibition chronicle his important debates with Stephen A. Douglas during the race for the U.S. Senate seat from Illinois in 1858. The exhibition also includes recently found ephemera from the 1860 presidential election and Republican Convention, held in Chicago at Lake Street and the Chicago River.

Visitors will learn about the day-to-day workings of Lincoln's presidency through a number of letters he received while in the White House, including a request by an Indian chief to have a member of his tribe excused from service in the Civil War after a family tragedy, and an offer

from a Union sympathizer to spy on General Robert E. Lee's troop movements. Lincoln penned reactions in his own hand on both of these letters as well as on other items in the exhibition.

Honest Abe of the West also draws on the Newberry's rich collections related to Lincoln's assassination and the nation's mourning, from memorial sheet music published in 1865 to one of the earliest printings of Walt Whitman's famous poem, "O Captain! My Captain!" written for the fallen leader.

The exhibition will also display items from the Alfred Orendorff Collection, on generous loan to the Newberry. These include a docket book Lincoln used in the late 1830s and 1840 to track his legal cases and fees; a list of his office expenses from 1846, and various legal documents in Lincoln's hand, among others.

Admission to all exhibits at the Newberry Library is free and open to the public. Galleries are open Monday, Friday, Saturday from 8:15 am - 5:00 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 8:15 am - 7:30 pm.

(from the Newberry Library's website, www.Newberry.org)

Monitor's Gun Carriages Now Right Side Up

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The USS Monitor's two gun carriages were recently turned right-side up for the first time since the ship sank on Dec. 31, 1862.

On Nov. 9 and 10, a heavy crane carefully lifted one carriage a day from the conservation tanks in which they sit in the Batten Conservation Laboratory Complex at The Mariners' Museum, home of the USS Monitor Center. Each was carefully attached to a special A-frame cradle and then rotated to a right-side up orientation. Within minutes, each carriage was hoisted and returned to its tank.

The carriages for the iconic Union ironclad's two XI-inch Dahlgren Shell Guns were pulled from the ocean's depths in 2002 when the Monitor's turret was recovered. Everything in the turret was left with the same upside-down orientation it had in 230 feet of water at the wreck site off Cape Hatteras, N.C. (from December's Civil War News)

GRAPESHOT



Abraham Lincoln Events

As part of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the **Chicago History Museum** has an exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln Transformed," thru April 12, 2010.

The **National Portrait Gallery** in Washington, DC, has an exhibit, "President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball," thru Jan. 18th.

The **Portland Museum**, Louisville, KY, has "Lincoln: Presidency in Pictures," thru Feb. 28th, 2010.

The **National Museum of American History** in Washington, DC, has an exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln, An Extraordinary Life," from Jan. 16th 2010 thru 2011.

The **New York Historical Society**, NYC, has "Lincoln and New York," thru March 25th, 2010.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

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.

Upcoming Civil War Events

Jan. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Forum on the Illinois Central Railroad in the Civil War

Jan. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Robert I. Girardi on "Railroad Defense During the Atlanta Campaign"

Jan. 8th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Jerry Kowalski on "General George Thomas: My Friends, Enemies, and Lovers"

Jan. 10th, McHenry Co. CWRT: Civil War discussion group at Borders Bookstore in Crystal Lake: Topic, "Stones River", 10 a.m. to noon.

Jan. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Robert I. Girardi, TBD

Jan. 21st, South Suburban CWRT: Kim Shehorn on "Beyond Nursing: The Role of Women in the Civil War"

Jan. 30th, Kenosha Civil War Museum, 1 p.m.: "Civil War Cyclorama Panoramas" by Michael Kutzer. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

Feb. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Dave Noe on "The Great Camel Experiment"

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsa1861@att.net or (630) 297-8046.

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*.

Jan. 8, 2010: **Rob Girardi**, "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign"

Feb. 12: **Paul Finkelman**, "Lincoln and Emancipation"

March 12: **Eric Jacobson**, "The Battle of Franklin"

April 9: **David O. Stewart**, "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"

May 14: **William W. Freeling**, "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession"

June 11: **John V. Quarstein**, "Battle of the Ironclads"

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be noon, Jan. 30th, with **Norman Boas** talking about his new book, *Abraham Lincoln Illustrated Biographical Dictionary* and **Burrus Carnahan** on *Lincoln On Trial: Southern Civilians and the Laws of War*. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincolnbookshop.com.

Gettysburg Superintendent Reassigned

National Park Service (NPS) officials have reassigned Gettysburg National Military Park superintendent John A. Latschar (who spoke to our CWRT earlier this year) to a desk job, and named an interim superintendent until a new person is hired. This action follows the discovery of sexually explicit images on Latschar's office computer.