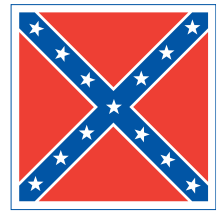


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXX, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 2010



689th REGULAR MEETING

Eric Jacobson

on

“The Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin”

★★★★★

Friday, March 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: Pepper Steak, Salmon,

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Mar. 8 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.

Eric Jacobson

on

“The Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Nov. 30th, 1864, Franklin, Tennessee. General John Bell Hood sent his Confederate Army of Tennessee across nearly two miles of open ground in a last gasp effort to destroy John M. Schofield’s Union forces before they could reach the safety of Nashville. The resulting battle was arguably the bloodiest five hours fighting during the Civil War. There were roughly 10,000 casualties, with probably 2,500 killed outright, including Confederate hero Pat Cleburne.

In the end Hood’s troops fail to breach the Union breastworks, suffering severe casualties in an assault that is sometimes called the “Pickett’s Charge of the West”. The once-proud Army of Tennessee was wrecked.

On March 12th Eric Jacobson will speak on this Confederate tragedy, covering the genesis for Hood’s 1864 Tennessee Campaign, the lost opportunity at Spring Hill, and Hood’s alleged use of laudanum, as well as the bloody assault at Franklin. Jacobson’s talk will focus on the much maligned



Eric Jacobson

John Bell Hood, and on the actions of the Federal army, often overlooked in this campaign due to the tragedy that befell the Confederate army.

Eric Jacobson has been studying the Civil War, specifically the Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, for nearly 25 years. A Minnesota native, he is the Associate Director and Historian at Historic

Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. His first book, For Cause and For Country: A Study of the Affair at Spring Hill & the Battle

of Franklin (2006), has been described as “a magnificent addition to Civil War histories”. Eric’s latest book, The McGavock Cemetery (2007), focuses on the McGavock family of Carnton and their selfless role in the burial of the Franklin battlefield dead. He lives in Spring Hill with his wife and two children.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

CWPT Is Raising Funds For Parcel Within Gettysburg Park Boundary

GETTYSBURG, PA- For less than \$100,000 the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) can help acquire what spokesman Jim Campi called, "the final piece to restore the landscape on Emmitsburg Road" at Gettysburg Battlefield.

CWPT is raising funds to supplement \$300,000 that the National Park Service has on hand to buy the last 1.9 acres of the Phillip Snyder Farm. Gettysburg National Military Park spokesperson Katie Lawhon said the parcel, on which two modern brick houses sit, is on Emmitsburg Road where it meets West Confederate Avenue.

The historic Snyder farmhouse across the road is part of the park. According to a CWPT press release, the landowners expressed a desire to sell late last year, but the property was appraised well beyond the park's ability to pay. CWPT acted quickly to protect the tract from further development and put it under contract.

Lawhon said the small parcel was listed as high priority for acquisition in the park's 1993 land protection plan. She says the park boundary includes 5990.30 acres, on which 640.37 acres inside the boundary, including this Snyder tract, are unprotected. In park parlance such tracts are referred to as in-holdings.

After the closing, CWPT will sell the parcel to the National Park Service for \$300,000, the allocation from Congress. Lawhon says the park will restore the site to agricultural use. Whether the houses are torn down or moved off site will be up to the contractor who wins the bid.

The Snyder Farm is half a mile from Little Round Top and due west

of Devil's Den. As guide Tim Smith explains on a video that can be viewed at CWPT's www.civilwar.org site, the July 2 Confederate line was just west of the 80-acre Snyder farm.

After the battle Phillip Snyder tried unsuccessfully to get compensation for the \$500 in damage caused by Confederates of Robertson's and Benning's Brigades crossing his farm to advance on Devil's Den.

"Virtually everyone who has ever come to Gettysburg, seeking to walk the fields of the Civil War's greatest battle, has passed by this land," said CWPT president James Lighthizer in a press release.

"Nearly a third of the Union Army marched right by-and likely across this property as they double-quickened up the Emmitsburg Road into Gettysburg on July 1, 1863," he said.

"It is not often-if ever-that we who care about saving America's Civil War battlefields get the opportunity to save something so important."

According to the CWPT the National Parks Conservation Association successfully lobbied Congress for Gettysburg to receive \$ 2.215 million in FY2009 for land acquisition from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. That is where the \$ 300,000 came from.

The CWPT has worked with the Land Conservancy of Adams County, Conservation Fund, Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association and Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg since 1997 to protect 700 acres at Gettysburg Battlefield. These sites include Daniel Lady Farm, East Cavalry Field, the cavalry action site at Fairfield and in-holdings parcels along the Baltimore Pike and Mummasburg Road.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
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, 1039 Hinswood Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact bsa1861@att.net.

Foundation's President Quits

GETTYSBURG, PA- Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan (Ret.), who became president of the Gettysburg Foundation on October 19th, resigned on January 26th.

Buchanan started the job the same week that Superintendent John A. Latschar's tenure started unraveling. Latschar was forced to resign and on October 26th started a new assignment.

Latschar had been in line for the Foundation presidency in late 2008, but he withdrew his name in January 2009 because of ethical concerns in the Interior Department.

Foundation President Robert C. Wilburn then continued on the job through July 2009 when he left for a job as distinguished service professor and director of Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College in Washington, D.C.

Buchanan, who had military, finance and nonprofit experience, was hired after a nationwide search by a recruiting firm. Chairman Robert A. Kinsley announced Buchanan's departure in a brief news item posted on the foundation's Web site January 26th.

From The Civil War News February/March 2010

February Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

On Lincoln's Birthday, Professor Paul Finkelman addressed the 688th meeting of the Civil War Roundtable on the subject of "Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation." Many historians consider the Emancipation a pedestrian document, and Lincoln has been criticized for vacillating before issuing the Proclamation. When finally delivered, the Proclamation freed no slaves and appeared the desperate act of a cynical politician. But (according to Finkelman) a closer look reveals that these criticisms are unwarranted.

Lincoln understood the Constitution gave the national government no power to interfere with domestic institutions. At his inaugural, he reminded the seceding states that he had no lawful right to interfere with slavery where it existed; having no lawful right, he was able to say he had "no inclination to do so." But Lincoln's personal views were clear: he hated slavery, writing that "if slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong." He supported Congress' power to limit slavery in areas within its jurisdiction. Although "naturally anti-slavery," Lincoln was constitutionally constrained.

Lincoln's constitutional philosophy evolved during the war. He considered General Fremont's 1861 proclamation unconstitutional. When General Hunter freed slaves in the coastal areas, Lincoln rescinded the order, but claimed the president, not a major general, would determine the extent of executive power. Eventually, General Butler provided Lincoln the "contraband theory" of emancipation when he refused to release slaves who crossed Union lines. If insurrection made slaves contraband, taking them would be no different than confiscating guns from their rebellious masters.

Lincoln was keenly aware of the need to keep the border states, especially Kentucky, which had the largest

white population of any slave-holding state, in the fold. Early Union defeats were an obstacle to this, but victories in early 1862 not only secured the upper south, but gave the Union a reasonable chance for military success.

Public opinion in 1862 was moving towards emancipation. Lincoln warned border representatives that the "incidents of war" could not be avoided, that the 'friction' of war was destined to destroy slavery in the end. Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia in March 1862, and passed Confiscation Acts, but the northern press wanted more. In response to Horace Greeley's "The Prayer of Twenty Millions" Lincoln stated his goal to save the union, and also his long-held personal wish that all men everywhere be free. He counseled northern ministers that he could not free slaves when he was unable to enforce the Constitution; he could not emancipate slaves and risk losing 50,000 bayonets from Kentucky. Thus Lincoln acknowledged the influence of military success in securing the border states and molding public opinion as well.

Lincoln prepared the country for emancipation. He met with border state representatives to discuss gradual emancipation. He revealed his intent to Secretaries Seward and Welles in July 1862, but could not act until the border states were secure and there was a fair prospect of winning the war. Framing his power as inherent in the constitution, he utilized the "powers invested in me as Commander in Chief," to free only slaves in insurrectionary areas. The timing of the Proclamation was important - before the 1862 mid-term elections and after the Battle of Antietam, where Lee's invasion came to an end. This was due to principle, not cynical manipulation or desperation. Lincoln did not want to wait until after the election when the Proclamation could be viewed as a political trick.

Lincoln wanted to free the slaves for moral reasons and developed a constitutional theory empowering him to do so. He couched his actions in military necessity, because this would gain greater support in the north. This was the "irony of emancipation" - Lincoln issued the Proclamation only when he thought he could win the war, but justified it as necessary to win the war. After Antietam, he felt confident he could issue the Proclamation as the "logical fruit of military victory."

Richard Hofstadter wrote that the Emancipation Proclamation had "all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading." The professor agreed, but concluded that "true facts do not necessarily lead to correct interpretations." This bill of lading delivered four million people to freedom, achieving Lincoln's wish that "all men every where could be free."

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



Ed Bearss Award

The battlefield preservation committee is accepting donations for the annual Edwin C. Bearss battlefield preservation fund where Ed chooses the battlefields he wants the money to go to on this year's tour. Members can send the donations to Brian Seiter, 9812 S. California Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805 or can bring the check to our meetings in March and April. Donees will be acknowledged in the newsletter

GRAPESHOT



The **Kankakee Valley CWRT Symposium**, March 20th, will feature talks by our own **Bruce Alardice** (on "Baseball in the Civil War") and **Robert I. Girardi** (on "Generals Impressions of the Civil War"). Also presenting will be David Hinze and Steven A. Cole. For more information, phone (815) 939-1041 or email sharonschumacher@aol.com.

On Monday March 8th **Jon Sebastian** will be presenting a paper on Democratic Party support in Illinois during the Civil War, at the Illinois State Historical Society Annual Symposium.

Larry Hewitt will be speaking on "Slandered Heroes: Deserters Who Didn't" to the Louisville, KY, CWRT on March 13th, at the U. of Alabama on April 3rd, and at the Deep Delta Symposium on June 5th.

Historians Jack Waugh, Dennis Frye and Jim Ogden will be hosting a Civil War symposium April 29-May 3, aboard the Steamboat Delta Queen. Based in Chattanooga, the symposium will feature tours of the Chattanooga and Chickamauga battlefields. For more information, call toll-free (866) 956-4440

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus 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

- March 3rd, Lake County CWRT: Pam Gonzalez on "Children of the Civil War"
- March 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Marty Cain on "Mary Custis Lee"
- March 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on "Railroad Defense During the Atlanta Campaign"
- March 7th, Kenosha Civil War Museum, 2 p.m.: Mary Kababik in the role of "Cordelia Harvey", plus author Dan Stika will sign his new book, When Lincoln Met Wisconsin's Nightingale. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- March 9th, McHenry Co. CWRT: Marty Cain on "Mary Custis Lee"
- March 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Eric Jacobson on "The Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin"
- March 13th, Joliet Library Author's Fair: Rob Girardi will be there 11-3
- March 14th: "Clearance sale" at Hooked on History bookstore in Mt., Prospect. Phone (847) 255-9854 for details.
- March 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on "What Generals Thought of Each Other". Meets at the Country House Restaurant in Alsip.
- March 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: Ray Glick on "Civil War Horses and Mules"
- March 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Bob Kuzma on "The 100th Illinois"
- March 27th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Professor Betsy Estilow's presentation on "Mother Mary Ann Bickerdyke"

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*.

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, March 6th, with Michael Perman talking about his new book, Pursuit of Unity and Julie Stern on Mary Chestnut's Civil War Epic. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincolnbookshop.com.

CWRT Executive Committee Meeting

At the CWRT Executive Committee's Winter Meeting, it was decided to raise the price of our monthly dinner to \$45 and parking to \$12, effective the 2010-2011 year. This change was (reluctantly) agreed upon, due to a hike in prices charged the CWRT.

Noted historian **Art Bergeron** passed away February 9th. Art wrote numerous books on the Civil War, including Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units and Confederate Mobile. A good friend, Art had recently worked at Pamplin Park and the U.S. Army Military History Center.