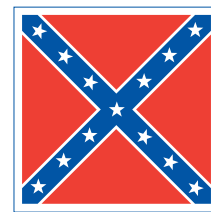


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXXI, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March 2011



699th REGULAR MEETING

Susan Boardman

on

“The Gettysburg Cyclorama”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, March 11

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$45 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Pepper Steak, Baked Salmon, Vegetarian Plate or Fruit Plate

Please note

Make your reservations by March 7, by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, 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 \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Susan Boardman on The Gettysburg Cyclorama

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

“What is a cyclorama?” is a frequent question heard in the visitor center at Gettysburg.

In 1884, painter Paul Philippoteaux took brush to canvas to create an experience of gigantic proportion. On a 377-foot painting in the round, he re-created Pickett’s Charge, the peak of fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg. Four versions were painted, two of which are among the last surviving cycloramas in the United States. When it was first displayed, the Gettysburg Cyclorama painting was so emotionally stirring that grown men openly wept. This was state-of-the-art entertainment for its time, likened to a modern IMAX theater. Today, restored to its original glory, the six-ton behemoth is on display at the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center.

On March 11, Sue Boardman will describe the genre of cycloramas in general and the American paintings in particular: Why they were made, who made them and how. She will then focus on the Gettysburg cycloramas with specific attention to the very first Chicago version and



Susan Boardman, LBG

the one currently on display at the Gettysburg National Military Park (made for Boston).

Sue Boardman, a Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide since 2000, is a two-time recipient of the Superintendent’s Award for Excellence in Guiding. Sue is a recognized expert of not only the Battle of Gettysburg but also the National Park’s early history including the National Cemetery.

Beginning in 2004, Sue served as historical consultant for the Gettysburg Foundation for the new museum project as well as for the massive project to conserve and restore the Gettysburg cyclorama. She has authored a book on the history of the Cyclorama titled The Gettysburg Cyclorama: A History and Guide.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Ed Bearss Award

The Civil War Sesquicentennial is being celebrated across our country but we have our own preservation challenge for our membership and that is the 10th annual Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award. Every year on our battlefield tour Ed selects two battlefields that the roundtable sends a \$1,000 check in his name for battlefield preservation. Right now we have \$350 toward our goal of \$2,000 to send to two battlefields that need the help and support of the CWRT of Chicago. We need to step up to the plate as a roundtable in this Civil War Sesquicentennial for battlefield preservation and show that our roundtable is still a leader in preserving what matters to all of us Civil War battlefields. We have two months to complete our goal in time for the Petersburg Tour. Please help us reach this goal by April 27th!

\$960K Grant Brings 'Slice' Of A Franklin Battle Park Closer

Franklin, Tenn.—Historians and preservationists received an early Christmas gift from the State of Tennessee in the form of a \$960,000 grant to the Franklin's Charge (FC) preservation coalition to be used toward an anticipated purchase of a core Battle of Franklin property.

The tract, about an acre, is occupied by a small strip center and Domino's Pizza store owned by local businessman Donnie Cameron. He is agreeable to discuss its sale for battlefield preservation and negotiations are ongoing.

An additional \$240,000 must be raised in order to receive the state money. According to FC founder and board member Robert Hicks, \$150,000 of this will come from the CWPT leaving \$90,000 to be raised.

The \$960,000 grant comes through the Tennessee Department of Transportation from federal transportation enhancements funds.

The Cameron property is directly across the street from the Carter House, which until recent years was one of the few places visitors could walk the battleground since most of it was lost to development.

It was in the Carter House and Carter Cotton Gin area where the actions of eight Union soldiers earned them Medals of Honor. And it was this area where two of the six Confederate generals killed or mortally wounded were hit. ...

Another pizza establishment, Pizza Hut, helped propel Franklin's preservationist movement. A 2005 National Geographic article discussed the pizza restaurant which sat just to the south of the strip center now being purchased and how it was an eyesore to historians.

Partly because of that publicity and the momentum of the Eastern Flank project, the Pizza Hut corporation sold the quarter-acre site where Confederate General Patrick Cleburne was killed to the City of Franklin for \$300,000.

It was torn down and became the first piece of the new battlefield park. The site is locally known as the "assault park" because of the title of a historical marker there. It was in this area where men of Confederate General Pat Cleburne's division collided with Federal forces and suffered very heavy losses.

FC purchases since 2008 include the 1-acre Holt House property, acquired as part of the core cotton gin property. The Holt tract is directly north of the one-acre Cameron commercial strip. Negotiations to move the house are ongoing.

To the strip's east is the Fudge house. In March the CWPT will transfer the one-acre Fudge property to FC. The Williamson County Heritage Society owns another acre in the gin site area, which, at some point, will become part of the evolving battlefield park.

Franklin's Charge has aggressive

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Darien, Illinois 60561

Phone: 630-460-1865

www.chicagocwrt.org

The only requirement for membership in The Civil War 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 editor@chicagocwrt.org

plans to create a true Carter House area battlefield park by the 150th Battle of Franklin anniversary.

"We plan to buy this piece of property (Cameron strip) and knock down the buildings and rebuild the Carter Cotton Gin," said President Ernie Bacon.

As the various key tracts are purchased, FC sees its vision of a cotton gin battlefield park coming true.

Bacon said that it will take several hundreds of thousands of dollars to pay off all the debt, remove the various buildings and rebuild the cotton gin site.

"Other opportunities are there to add to these core purchases, but we have to continue to raise significant funds with the help of our partners and contributors," he said

Ultimately, the newest acre acquisition will be under the control of the State of Tennessee's Historical Commission. This is part of the guarantee to the public that the properties will be battlefield park properties for perpetuity, according to Stacey Watson, who works closely with all the partners in the process.

"This is fine with us. We just want battle ground preserved for all to see", she said. For further information go to www.Franklinscharge.org. "From January *Civil War News*"

February Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Professor **Daniel Sutherland** addressed the 698th meeting of The Civil War Roundtable on February 11, 2011, presenting remarks on "Guerilla War." Professor Sutherland's thesis is that this type of warfare was more immediate and pervasive than commonly thought. The first violence of the war took place within days of the firing on Fort Sumter. All along the northern border of the south, confederate civilians blew up bridges, cut telegraph lines, and bushwacked union army patrols. Union regiments marching through Baltimore and St. Louis were attacked by pro-confederate citizens.

These types of activities were perceived as the quickest means to repel invasion; they fit the southern character which favored brashness over caution, aggression over defense. Independent companies of partisans, rangers, and scouts were raised. From the beginning of the conflict, the southern nation stood poised to rise in irregular warfare against the armies formed on its border. President Davis was advised by several citizens, including Daniel Ruffin, that guerilla bands were the best means to wage the fight.

Neither government condoned guerilla warfare: federals considered it an affront to rules of 'civilized' warfare; unchecked, unregulated, guerilla war worried confederate leaders who believed the nation should fight a traditional war. In December 1861, Jefferson Davis wrote his generals that guerilla companies were not to be recognized as "part of the military organization of the Confederate States." Robert E. Lee advised subordinates that formation of guerilla bands was "not deemed advisable by the president." But as guerilla warfare was already in full swing, the confederate congress passed the Partisan Ranger Act in April 1862, legislation designed to legitimize and promote discipline within guerilla groups. Units such as Mosby's Partisan Rangers were sanctioned, but other groups such as those

led by Quantrill and Champ Ferguson refused to subordinate themselves to the government.

Guerilla warfare was widespread within the south. Southern unionists, being a minority and targeted for aggression, used guerilla war for self-protection. These unionists assisted federal armies as scouts and informants on confederate activity in their neighborhoods. Confederate guerillas fought union armies, but most guerilla warfare was intra-south. And in 1862 and thereafter, southerners of both types found it necessary to band against unaligned groups of deserters, draft dodgers, and other outlaws who exploited wartime conditions.

This multi-layered form of warfare had a profound impact on the war. First, the guerilla contest disrupted regular military operations. It required both sides, but particularly the north, to deploy numerous troops to guard against guerillas of all types. The need to suppress guerillas in every state where the federal military operated affected logistics and prolonged the war. On the political front, the need to protect loyal southern unionists and to promote stability in the border states was a major concern for the Lincoln administration. The government in Richmond and the southern states needed to allocate resources to protect local populations as well. The guerilla war took a psychological toll on both military and civilian populations. Many people lived in isolated circumstances, others had been dislocated by this type of war; both were exposed to the depredations of roaming bands. Most southern people never saw an army or witnessed a battle, but many experienced the violence of the war.

Guerilla warfare changed the tone of the war. The federal government initially intended to treat conquered southern communities kindly, but found the population resistant. There

came to be reprisals for guerilla activity which included hangings and execution of prisoners. General Sherman retaliated for attacks on Mississippi River steamboat traffic by destroying the town of Randolph, Tennessee. General Hurlbut ordered the destruction of Hopefield, Arkansas; General Pope ordered captured guerillas shot as outlaws. Anyone caught cutting telegraph wires between Fort Smith, Fayetteville, Arkansas, and Springfield, Missouri was subject to immediate hanging. The resources expended to combat guerillas caused an exasperated General Granger to say, "this infernal guerilla system is bound soon to waste our entire army away."

As the war progressed, federal forces armed rural communities to protect them from marauding elements - the cities could be held but the countryside remained in rebel hands. The union army also recruited southerners for counter-guerilla operations. In April 1865, Jefferson Davis proposed authorizing guerilla warfare but his cabinet voted against it. General Lee disfavored this approach, feeling that the southern populace would not support continuing chaos. But some degree of guerilla warfare continued after war's end - resistance to reconstruction and Klan activity were examples.

Bruce Catton lamented the lack of attention given the guerilla conflict within the larger war, stating it had been treated as a 'sideshow.' Professor Sutherland persuasively argued that guerilla warfare was far greater in scope than is usually thought. In doing so, he removed this part of the war from the shadows where it once resided.

To hear the entire talk, there is a recording of the meeting (and every meeting) available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net. To view his slide presentations see <http://classic.kodakgallery.com/civilwar/main>.

GRAPESHOT



The **Chicago History Museum** is sponsoring several events to coincide with the Sesquicentennial. On March 19th there will be a tour of the Museum's Civil War collections and a related workshop for educators. On March 26th there will be a tour of Chicago's Civil War sites. On March 29th author Andrew F. Smith shares his "Culinary Perspective" of the dynamics of food supply on the war. Phone 312 642-4600 or visit www.chicagohistory.org for more on these events.

Beginning in April the **Union League Club** will host monthly presentations on the Civil War, hosted by Larry Hewitt and Frank Patton.

Dave Corbett and his "Battlefield Balladeers" will perform at the Elmhurst Public Library March 24th.

Leslie Goddard will present "Clara Barton" to the Elk Grove Historical Society on March 19th.

Reminder

Reminder: 2011 Tour (Petersburg/Appomattox)—April 27-May 1, 2011

2012 Tour (Chickamauga/Chattanooga)—May 3-6, 2012

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

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

- Mar. 2nd, Lake County CWRT:
Pamela Gonzalez on
"The Battle of Aversboro"
- Mar. 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Charlie Banks on
"Confederate mapmaker Jedediah Hotchkiss"
- Mar. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Rick Andresen on "Reconstruction"
- Mar. 5th, Kenosha Civil War Museum:
Living history presentation by the
154th Tennessee.
Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for
more details.
- Mar. 8th, McHenry County CWRT:
Fred Reczkowicz and Jeff Rees on
"General Ben Butler"
- Mar. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Sue
Boardman on "The Gettysburg
Cyclorama"
- Mar. 11th, Kenosha Civil War Museum:
Program on "Colonel Elmer
Ellsworth"
- Mar. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Valerie Gugala presents "Mary Todd
Lincoln"
- Mar. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Ray
Glick on "Civil War horses (Part 2)"
- Mar. 24th, South Suburban CWRT:
Fred Johanson hosts a discussion on
"Lee at Gettysburg"

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 11: Susan Boardman,
"Gettysburg Cyclorama"
- April 8: Richard McMurry,
"A Georgian Looks at
Sherman"
- May 13: Tom Schott, "Alexander
Stephens"
- June 10: Peter Carmichael,
"Robert E. Lee and the
Strategy of Annihilation"

The 22nd Annual Kankakee Valley symposium will be held March 19th at the Quality Inn in Kankakee. The great lineup of speakers includes Terry Winschel, Dale Phillips, Eric Jacobson, plus Tim Connors and George Buss portraying Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln. To register, email sharonschumacher@aol.com.

LINCOLN PROGRAM

The Chicago Public Library, this Round Table, and other local historical organizations are sponsoring a program titled "150th Anniversary of the Inauguration of Abraham Lincoln". The date is March 4, 2011, at the Union League Club in downtown Chicago, and will feature talks by historians such as Michael Burlingame, Tom Schwartz and our own Dan Weinberg, display of artifacts, and a "private tour" of the Chicago Public Library's Civil War/Lincoln artifact collection. See www.ulcc.org/files/lincoln.pdf for more details.