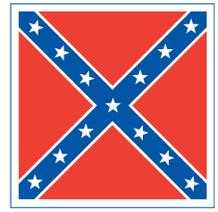


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March 2012



## 709th REGULAR MEETING

Nevins-Freeman Address

Wil Greene

on

“The Bermuda Hundred”

★★★★★

Friday, March 9

★★★★★

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 Wednesday, Mar. 7, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org), or calling 630 460-1865 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.*

## Nevins-Freeman Address

Wil Greene

on

The Bermuda Hundred

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The Union army assault on Bermuda Hundred in 1864 had the potential of ending the war. Unfortunately, the Union army got bogged down in a series of desultory engagements, and finally was, as President Lincoln noted, hemmed in “as in a bottle strongly *corked*.” Much of the blame for the poor Union army performance lay in its commander, Major General Ben Butler, described by his top subordinate in these caustic terms: “as helpless as a child upon the field of battle, and as visionary as an opium eater in council.”

On March 9th distinguished author and historian A. Wilson Greene will accept our Round Table’s Nevins-Freeman Award, following in the footsteps of past awardees such as Bruce Catton and Ed Bearss.

He will talk on the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, a series of some eight engagements fought during a two-week period in May 1864 south of Richmond. He will review the course of this surprisingly complex campaign and analyze the generalship that left it a tactical draw.

A. Wilson Greene is a native of Chicago, born on the South Side and raised in Wheaton. He graduated from Florida State University



Wil Greene

with a history degree then went on to earn an MA in history at LSU, studying under T. Harry Williams. Wil worked 16 years for the National Park Service as a historian and park manager until leaving in 1990 to serve as the first director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, not the Civil War Trust. In 1995 he was the founding director of Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, a position he still holds.



Wil is the author of six books on Civil War history as well as more than 20 published articles. He is currently under contract to the University of North Carolina Press to write a three-volume study of the Petersburg Campaign and will begin writing volume one this year, after doing nearly six years of research. Wil leads tours for the Smithsonian and many other groups and was appointed by President Bush to serve seven years on the board of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the federal agency that oversees best practices for America’s museums and libraries.

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## Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

### Franklin's Charge Pays Off Mortgage, Seeks Funding For Another Purchase

by Gregory L. Wade

Franklin, Tenn.—With a large gift from a local donor to pay off the remaining note balance, Franklin's Charge celebrated Christmas by burning the mortgage on the Holt Property, a key battleground parcel near the Carter House Museum.

Not resting on its laurels, the group now is trying to raise \$500,000 by May 1st to acquire additional land across the street from the Carter House. The eventual aim is to create a five-acre Carter Cotton Gin Interpretive Park.

Franklin's Charge is a coalition of local preservation and heritage groups that came together in 2005 to preserve 110 acres now known as the Eastern Flank, formerly, a golf course. It is about a half mile from the Carter House and is managed by the City of Franklin.

Since that purchase, efforts have been made to acquire other important battlefield parcels as they have come up for sale.

"After working with the Civil War Trust, the city and others on saving the 110 acres, I thought we were done after we purchased the Eastern Flank property," noted Franklin's Charge founding member Julian Bibb. "But next thing we knew more opportunities like the Holt property came up, and we couldn't pass it up."

The acre-plus Holt lot is said to have been the scene of some of the fiercest fighting in the November 30th, 1864, Battle of Franklin.

Before Christmas, president Paul Gaddis and treasurer Tom Powell burned the mortgage note while other preservationists and board members watched.

Gaddis recalled plans of an out-of-state developer to build condominiums on the Holt Property before Franklin's Charge stepped in. Acquired in 2008 for almost one million with assistance from the Civil War Trust, a two-story

frame dwelling on this site was removed and the ground returned to its undeveloped appearance.

"No one could have ever predicted years ago that such critical battle acreage would be reclaimed," Gaddis said. "And our vision of an emerging park is coming true."

While the group celebrated the Holt property success, they have an even larger prize in mind, what is now known as the Domino's Pizza "strip." The small retail center is needed to pull the other land purchases in the immediate area together, said Gaddis.

It is across the street from the Carter House where Confederate troops of the Army of Tennessee nearly broke through Union lines before reinforcements came up to close the breach...

Battle of Franklin Trust Chief Operating Officer Eric Jacobson points out the crucial work of the ongoing preservation efforts. He said saving the commercial strip and Holt Property is "critically important for interpretation of the battlefield and the honoring of those who fell."

With these grounds and an adjoining acre to the south that held a pizza restaurant and was preserved in 2006, there will be another battlefield park ready for interpretation possibly by the 2014 sesquicentennial.

Together with other properties to be reclaimed owned by the local Heritage Foundation, it is hoped the Carter cotton gin, cited as a key landmark by many battle veterans, will be rebuilt as well.

In addition, construction of the loop road for the Eastern Flank will become reality according to Franklin Alderman and preservationist Michael Skinner. Last July the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announced a \$500,000 grant to be used toward construction of an access road for visitors to the site.

Added to the city's already budgeted \$369,000, the road will be constructed.

"The big question is whether we can have it completed before the 150th anniversary of the Battle in 2014," said

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[www.chicagocwrt.org](http://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 [editor@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org).

Skinner, because of needed studies and permitting.

The loop road will facilitate battlefield interpretation to begin on the heels of a Tennessee Civil War National Heritage (TCWNH) grant of \$240,000 awarded in late 2011 to be used for signage and kiosks. The TCWNH is a federally funded heritage advocacy entity based at Middle Tennessee State University.

With progress on the Eastern Flank and near the Carter House moving at a quickening pace, there will be plenty of visitors to learn when visiting Franklin Battle sites in years to come.

"It is all coming together," said Gaddis, "and it is nothing short of incredible, especially when you consider where we were a few years ago."

Please check the following websites to learn more about preserving the Franklin battlefield: [www.franklinscharge.com](http://www.franklinscharge.com), [www.carter-house.org](http://www.carter-house.org), [www.lotzhouse.com](http://www.lotzhouse.com), [www.carnton.org](http://www.carnton.org).

From February/March *Civil War News*

The **Battlefield Preservation Committee** of the CWRT will meet Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. at Paula Walker's house, followed by a meeting of the Sesquicentennial Committee.

## February Talk

BY MARK MATRANGA

Judge Harry Bulkeley appeared before the 708th meeting of the Civil War Round Table as U.S. Grant, labeling his address "I Propose to Fight It Out." Bulkeley, as Grant, reminisced as he finished his *Memoirs* shortly before his death in 1885. He looked back on his early life in Ohio where his fathers' tannery was across the street from the Grant home. Ironically, this led Grant to his love of horses, "easier to know and understand than people."

At age 17, Grant received an appointment to West Point. Although christened Hiram Ulysses, Congressman Hamer mistakenly nominated him as "Ulysses S." so that when he entered the Military Academy he became known as U.S. Grant, which took. Although he recalled that "a military life held no charms for me," as a cadet he met Julia Dent through her brother, his roommate.

Upon graduation, Grant was assigned to the 4th Infantry and fought in the Mexican War. A quartermaster, he nonetheless made his way into battle. He recounted his experiences at Molina del Rey and at Monterrey where he rode through enemy lines. He admired Zachary Taylor who led by force of personality. General Scott wore full military regalia, but Taylor eschewed military uniform.

He and Julia married after the war and began to raise a family. Initially, army life was good, but when posted alone to the west

coast he floundered and turned to drink. Despite promotion to captain, he resigned his commission and returned to his family in St. Louis. Having failed in several enterprises, he eventually moved to Galena, Illinois, where his father had relocated, just before the Civil War began. There he met a staunch unionist, John Rawlins, who would become one of his closest advisors.

Grant's military career resumed with the outbreak of hostilities. He was appointed brigadier general of volunteers, and colonel of the 21st Illinois regiment. His first major engagement was a Belmont, Missouri, where his horsemanship saved him. Later, Admiral Foote gave him a congratulatory cigar after the surrender of Ft. Donelson; with that, the cigar became his iconic companion. At Shiloh, Grant came to realize the war would be long and bloody one, and it was. His campaigns took him from Vicksburg to Chattanooga to Washington, D.C. in February 1864. He recounted meeting the president and standing on a settee for two hours during a reception. Though he commanded all union armies, he chose to lead from the field.

Grant's idea was to engage Lee and not besiege Richmond, "to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer." This fight ended at Cold Harbor where Grant made an assault he always regretted. Ultimately, he forced Lee's surrender after a drawn out affair at Petersburg. A war here, he was twice elected president. He listed

his achievements as completion of the transcontinental railroad, the first civil service, and establishing the first national park.

In 1884, finding himself financially ruined, Grant learned he had throat cancer. With encouragement from Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), he took up the project of writing his memoirs. Old army friends and former foes Buckner and Longstreet visited him at Mt. McGregor, N.Y. He finished the memoirs shortly before he died.

Judge Bulkeley portrayed Grant as a humble and plain-spoken man, an imperturbable type. By changing clothes during the presentation, he helped focus attention on particular events in his life and career. Judge Bulkeley wants to understand Grant as a man and not just a general who led armies in sanguinary campaigns. In doing this, he gives a rich and more complete picture of this great American.



### Ed Bearss Award

Please support our goal to raise \$2,000 dollars for the 11th Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award. Every year on our battlefield tour Ed selects two battlefields, and the roundtable sends a \$1,000 check in his name for battlefield preservation. Please help us reach this goal by April 27th.

## GRAPESHOT



**Rob Girardi** will speak on “Illinois Fights the Civil War” at the Lake Bluff Library on March 5th, and the Champaign CWRT on March 15th.

On March 3rd **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “The South Suburbs and the Civil War” at the South Suburban Heritage Association’s Civil War Symposium. Other speakers include Dr. Wayne Wolf on “Charles Guenther,” Professor Art Burton on “The 29th USCT,” and Larry McClellan on “The Underground Railroad.” The event starts at 9 a.m. in the Thornton Township office in South Holland. The \$20 registration fee includes lunch. Contact Elaine Egdorf at (708) 798-9535 for more information.

**Jon Sebastian** will be speaking on “DuPage in the Civil War” Sunday, March 25th at the Oak Brook Public Library.

From March 1-4 the **McCord Gallery & Cultural Center** in Palos Park will display a museum quality collection of privately owned artifacts from the Civil War and the Indian Wars. Contact the gallery at [www.mccordgallery.org](http://www.mccordgallery.org) or phone (708) 671-0648 for more information.

Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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, Northern Illinois CWRT: Jim Ogden on “The Great Locomotive Chase”
- Mar. 7th, Lake County CWRT: Doug McFall on “The 1st Wisconsin Cavalry and Camp Harvey”
- Mar. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on “Antietam”
- Mar. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Wil Greene on “The Bermuda Hundred”
- Mar. 9th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “The Monumental Legacy of Abraham Lincoln” by David Wigers. Visit [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org) for more details.
- Mar. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Ed Urban on “Pea Ridge”
- Mar. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Dave Van Haften on “Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason”
- Mar. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Ken Noe on “Reluctant Rebels”
- Mar. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT: **Bruce Allardice** on “Chicagoland Fights the Civil War”
- Mar. 24th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: 2nd Annual Civil War Expo
- Mar. 30th, Union League Club CWRT: Brian Steel Wills on “General George Henry Thomas”

**Reminder: 2012 Tour**  
(Chickamauga/Chattanooga)  
May 3-6, 2012

**2013 Tour** – Antietam

## 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 9: A. Wilson Greene, “Nevins-Freeman Address”

April 13: Marshall Krolick, “Riding for the Union: 8th Illinois Cavalry Troopers”

May 18: Bruce Holden Reid, “Strategy of the Civil War”

June 8: Dennis Frye, “Antietam”

The **Chicago History Museum** is seeking Civil-War related articles. Submissions should be directed to our good friend Russell Lewis at [lewis@chicagohistory.org](mailto:lewis@chicagohistory.org).

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be Saturday, March 31st, at noon, with **Brian Steel Wills** talking about his new book, George Henry Thomas, and **Glenn David Brasher** talking about his new book, The Peninsula Campaign & the Necessity of Emancipation. Visit [www.virtualbooksigning.net](http://www.virtualbooksigning.net) for more details.

**REMINDER**—The 2012 tour is coming up. Visit the website to download the registration form!