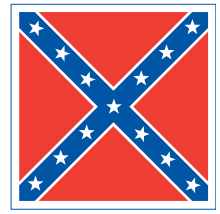


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November 2012



715th REGULAR MEETING

Tom Clemens

on

“Antietam as You’ve Never Heard It”

★★★★★

Friday, November 9

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Roast Turkey,
Baked Orange Roughy,
Vegetarian Plate or
Fruit Plate*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Nov. 7, by emailing 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 email us at dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org and/or call us at 630-460-1865.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

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

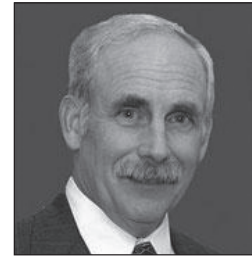
Tom Clemens on Antietam as You’ve Never Heard It

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

On November 9th, author and historian Tom Clemens will talk on “Antietam as You’ve Never Heard It.” This talk is compilation of veterans’ accounts from the Battlefield Board Papers. This is not a narrative of the campaign, but insights into various aspects of the battle and people involved.

Tom Clemens has a Bachelor’s and Masters’ degree in history from Salisbury State College, now Salisbury University. He recently retired from Hagerstown Community College spent 34 years, most of it teaching American History. Tom received his doctorate in 2002 from George Mason

University where he studied under Dr. Joseph Harsh, a distinguished scholar of the Maryland Campaign of 1862. Over the years Tom has written numerous magazine articles and many book reviews for various publications. His edited and annotated edition of Ezra Carman’s manuscript, The Maryland Campaign of September 1862 Vol. I was published in 2010 by Savas-Beattie



Tom Clemens

LLC and Vol. II was just released in September.

Tom has been featured in several documentaries including the documentary film at Antietam National Battlefield Visitor’s Center, A&E’s Civil War Journal, Hidden Civil War and several others. His interest in the Maryland Campaign goes back 30 years, and his work on Ezra Carman’s manuscript began in the 1990s’.



He is also a founding member of Save Historic Antietam Foundation, Inc. a non-profit preservation organization, and

has served as its president since 1986. He also serves on the board of Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association, and was active in the recent purchase of the Boteler Cement Mill property. He is a Licensed Battlefield Guide for Antietam National Battlefield and a 30+ year volunteer there. He and his wife live alongside Little Antietam Creek in Keedysville.

Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Questions of Chicago's Camp Douglas Boundary To Soon Be Solved Virtually

By David Keller

Thanks to information gained from a June archaeological excavation and modern technology, the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation has begun the development of Virtual Camp Douglas that will establish the camp's location and boundaries.

The Foundation along with Northern Michigan University and Loyola University of Chicago conducted the excavation on the site of Camp Douglas, near 32d Street and Rhodes Avenue.

More than 30,000 Union soldiers were received and trained at the camp, one of eight Union facilities that handled colored troops. Paroled Union soldiers were housed there after Confederates captured Harpers Ferry. In addition, more than 25,000 Confederate prisoners were sent to Camp Douglas.

Dr. Scott Demel, Northern Michigan University, led the dig from June 25-30, supported by a grant from the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation. Students from Loyola University and other volunteers excavated three locations on the northeast edge of the camp.

This area was believed to include the Garrison Square section of the camp containing the headquarters building, a troop barracks and a part of the stockade fence. The excavation area was determined by using historic maps and descriptions as well and readings from non-invasive ground penetrating radar, magnetometry and resistivity conducted earlier by Dr. Demel.

Currently the site of Camp Douglas contains no indication of camp boundaries or buildings. In the 1950s the area underwent major urban renewal that removed structures dating back to the late 1800s. Streets were truncated and rerouted. Demolition rubble was buried

throughout the site.

Comparing Sanborn Fire Maps from 1950 and 1912 it appeared likely that there was only one generation of permanent buildings on the site before the 1950s construction that created the current configuration. The non-invasive work provided the archaeologists with an idea of location of "hot spots" of metal and building material.

These spots indicated areas for additional investigation. The excavation confirmed the value of these methods in urban archaeology.

While a number of artifacts, probably not belonging to the camp, were uncovered, the investigators discovered what is believed to be a portion of the headquarters building foundation.

The age color, location and structure of the limestone led Dr. Demel to the conclusion that this is likely a part of the southern portion of the foundation. This finding was significant since it may positively locate one of the camp buildings of the camp that was razed in 1865.

The northern (31st Street), southern (33rd Place) and eastern (Cottage Grove Ave) boundaries of the camp have never been questioned. The western boundary has been a matter of debate since former Chicago Tribune editor, and later Illinois Lieutenant Governor, William Bross in 1878 presented a paper to the Chicago Historical Society indicating his research showed the western boundary at Forest Avenue (currently Giles Avenue) rather than two blocks east at Kankakee Ave. (currently King Drive) as reported in drawings from 1865. ...

With the recently gained information allowing development of Virtual Camp Douglas the boundary question will be answered.

The project, being completed in cooperation with Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), the Chicago History Museum and Chicago architectural firm zpd+a, will forever

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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.

solve the 130-year mystery.

Using architectural software, IIT students as part of the Inter-professional Project (IPRO) will produce 3D images of the Camp Douglas buildings as they appeared in 1864-65. The resulting Camp Douglas map will be superimposed on Google Earth which will justify the material to the Google Earth scale.

Using known boundaries, the now probable location of the headquarters building and other research conducted by the IIT students, the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation believes the camp and all camp buildings can, at last, be accurately located.

In addition to the 3D images of the camp, Virtual Camp Douglas will provide interior views of selected buildings and embedded videos using first-person information to describe camp life in 1864-65. When completed next year, Virtual Camp Douglas will be available at no cost to historians and educators.

David Keller is Managing Director of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation. He can be reached at dkeller@campdouglas.org. For more information: E-mail info@campdouglas.org.

From October *Civil War News*

October Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Edward Bonekemper addressed the 714th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on October 12, 2012, on "Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War." Bonekemper considers those who grew up west of the mountains not as affected by the 'north versus south' dichotomy as were those from the north and east. Grant and Lincoln identified as westerners, 'self-help' types who accepted the credo of individual self-determination. Both appreciated the cultural, economic, and strategic values of the river system of the West.

Grant exhibited those traits during his initial battles and campaigns: Belmont, Forts Henry and Donelson, and Shiloh. His superior, General Halleck, disapproved of his plan to go up the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, but with General McClellan's permission he advanced, took both forts, and captured a Confederate army at Fort Donelson, the first of three to surrender to him during the war. Sidelined due to political intrigue prior to Shiloh, he regained command before the battle; surprised on the first day, he attacked on the second. He then suffered the humiliation of having to sit out the Corinth campaign. Bonekemper suggested that had Grant been in command at Corinth, the Confederate army would not have escaped to fight in Kentucky.

During the Vicksburg campaign, Grant exhibited qualities of "subterfuge and diversion" in isolating and capturing the river bastion.

By keeping Sherman with a sizable portion of the army north of the city and sending Abel Streight and Grierson on cavalry raids, he forced his opponents to guard against a threat north of the city and occupied Nathan Bedford Forrest in Alabama when he would have been better employed in Mississippi. Bonekemper also stressed that while Grant was outnumbered in the theater, upon crossing the river at Grand Gulf he outnumbered Pemberton in every battle fought, an example of "concentration achieved through deception and speed." While Pemberton searched for Grant's supply lines, Grant guarded his flank by moving on Jackson, turning on Vicksburg only after driving away relief forces.

Throughout the Vicksburg campaign, Lincoln considered himself Grant's only friend in Washington - "everyone else wanted his scalp," including General McClernand. When that general requested a court of inquiry after Grant relieved him, Lincoln denied it; Lincoln would not support an effort to diminish his successful general. Grant's success at Vicksburg led to command in the west and took him to Chattanooga, the 'Gateway City,' where, Bonekemper said, the door "swung both ways," giving both sides an invasion route to the heartland of Tennessee or Georgia. Lincoln supported Grant by transferring Hooker from Virginia with 20,000 troops and moving Sherman from Mississippi. Events at Chattanooga made Grant a na-

tional hero for a third time and brought him such popularity that Lincoln, concerned he might seek the presidency, promoted him to lieutenant general only after receiving assurances from his supporters that he harbored no such ambition.

Coming to Washington and heeding Sherman's advice to remain in the field, Grant faced the 'two-commander dilemma.' Bonekemper believes Grant should have relieved Meade and worn two hats as General of the Armies and of the Army of the Potomac. Indeed, the press, no friend to Meade, referred to that army as Grant's command. Grant proved his western mettle when rather than retreating after the battles at Spotsylvania he moved toward Richmond, the first time in the war that army had not retreated.

Grant and Lincoln shared personal traits which contributed to the winning the war: humility, decisiveness, and moral courage. Their interpersonal relations were characterized by mutual respect and loyalty. And they developed a working relationship wherein Grant did not seek to set policy or overrule Lincoln's strategic decisions, and left political decisions to the president.

According to another historian, Lincoln's detractors depicted him as a "crude backcountry hick"; Grant's called him a drunk. Bonekemper knows these Men of the West for their "dogged tenacity" which contributed mightily to restoring the union.

GRAPESHOT



Former president **Bob Stoller** will speak on “Fredericksburg” Nov. 1st at the Indian Trail Library in Wheeling.

On Nov. 11th, Veterans Day, **Rob Girardi** will present “Illinois at Andersonville” at the Andersonville (GA) National Historic Site.

On Nov. 10th, at the Oakbrook Public Library: **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “The Ten Worst Civil War Generals” (and there’s a lot to choose from!).

Veteran’s Day at Rosehill Cemetery, 5800 N. Ravenswood in Chicago, will again be the occasion for ceremonies honoring the dead of America’s wars. The parade assembles at 10:30 at the chapel. The event features living historians from all periods of America’s conflicts. Sponsors include the Salt Creek and Chicago CWRTs, along with the 190th Michigan Engineers. For more information, phone Jerry Feinstein at 847 674-0120.

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 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

Nov. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT: William Furry on “Capt. Daniel Leib Ambrose”

Nov. 7th, Lake County CWRT: David Oberg on “The Brother’s War”

Nov. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Ray Guttendorf on “Admiral John Dahlgren”

Nov. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Nov. 9th, Chicago CWRT: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Nov. 13th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Steve Rogstad on “Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation.” Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

Nov. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Ward Brown on “Cavalry Tactics”

Nov. 15th, South Suburban CWRT: Fr. Vince Heier on “Possibly Not the Best General, But Certainly the Best Man”

Nov. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Battlefield Auction

Nov. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Brian Steel Wills on “Nathan Bedford Forrest”

2013 Tour — Antietam, May 1-5

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.*

Dec. 14: Dale Phillips, “The Red River Campaign”

Jan. 11, 2013: David Powell, “Confederate Cavalry at Chickamauga”

Feb. 8: Mary Abroe, “Charles Grosvenor, Colonel 18th Ohio”

March 8: Leslie Goddard, “Mary Chesnut”

April 12: John Fitzpatrick, ““There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”

May 10: Ethan Rafuse, “Lee and Gettysburg”

June 14: Timothy B. Smith, “Corinth”

Bjorn Skaptasen of the Abraham Lincoln book store reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be Dec. 1st at noon, with Walter Stahr talking about his new book, Seward. Visit www.virtualbooksigning.net for more details.

New Exhibit at Antietam

The Museum of CW Medicine, Frederick County CWRT, Hood College and Heart of the CW Heritage area, with the aid of the Center for CW Photography are putting on a special display at the Pry House on Antietam NB. The title of the exhibit is “Bringing the Story of the War to Our Doorsteps” and it will be a recreation of the exhibition of Alexander Gardner’s photos of the battle of Antietam exactly as they were shown in Matthew Brady’s New York studio in 1862, including 3-D presentations. The exhibit opens October 5 and closes December 1, 2012.