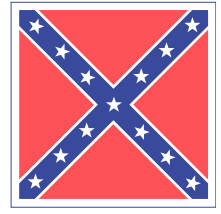


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

November 2014



735th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, November 14th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$49 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Baked Turkey or Baked Orange Roughy

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, November 12, 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.

Steve Towne on Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty: U.S. Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest during the Civil War

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

At the beginning of the Civil War state governors in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois cooperated with federal law enforcement officials in various attempts to investigate reports of secret groups and individuals who opposed the Union war effort.

Beginning in 1862, army commanders took it upon themselves to initiate investigation of antiwar sentiment in Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. By 1863, several of the commanders had established intelligence operations staffed by hired civilian detectives and by soldiers detailed from their units. These agents chased down deserters and draft dodgers, maintained surveillance on suspected persons and groups, and investigated organized resistance to the draft. By 1864, these agents had infiltrated secret organizations that, sometimes working in collaboration with Confederate rebels, aimed to subvert the war effort.

On November 14th Stephen E. Towne, will examine how, during the Civil War, the U.S. Army responded to growing threats to its integrity arising from desertion, draft dodging, and armed resistance to the draft in



Steve Towne

the Midwest. Army commanders in those states created detective bureaus in order to collect intelligence on armed secret organizations aimed at impeding the Union war effort. Army detectives who successfully infiltrated these groups helped to foil plots to raise insurrection and release Confederate POWs—most notoriously, the “Chicago Conspiracy” to free the Camp Douglas Prisoners. As a result of his research, Towne argues that Copperheads and other subversive factions were not merely fringe groups, but truly dangerous provocateurs, whose threat to Northern

internal security was more real than imagined.

Stephen E. Towne is an archivist at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). He has written extensively on the Civil War in the Midwest, including articles in *Civil War History*, *Journal of Illinois History*, *Indiana Magazine of History*, *Journalism History*, *Ohio Valley History*, and others. Towne has edited two volumes and is the author of [Surveillance and Spies in the Civil War: Exposing Confederate Conspiracies in America's Heartland](#) to be published in December, 2014 by Ohio University Press.



Battle of Westport Update

By Daniel L. Smith

(October 2014 Civil War News - Preservation Column)



Nearly 40 years ago, a dedicated group from the membership of the Civil War Round Table of Kansas City formed the Monnett Battle of Westport Fund, a non-profit organization, for the purpose of creating a 32-mile self-guided auto tour of the immense battlefield constituting the Battle of Westport of Oct. 21-23, 1864.

The Battle of Westport involved over 32,000 troops on the outskirts of the village of Westport lying on the turbulent border between Missouri and Kansas.

Westport was the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River, stretching for seven miles from east to west and five miles from north to south. It marked the climax to a decade of war beginning with the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854.

Designated as CWSAC (Civil War Sites Advisory Commission) #MO027, Westport is one of only two battles in the state of Missouri designated by the National Park Service as a Class "A" battle because of its decisive effect upon the outcome of the war in the Trans-Mississippi.

Today, the Westport battlefield is located entirely within the urban confines of Kansas City. It is as if the City of Philadelphia had been placed on top of the Gettysburg battlefield.

Through the years, the Fund's role has evolved from the original auto tour in 1977 to encompass an organization that functions essentially as a state historic battlefield. Uniquely, it conducts its programs and preservation

efforts solely with an all-volunteer staff.

In 2008 the Fund opened the visitor center and museum on the battlefield in Swope Park, the nation's second largest municipal park. The vista from the museum's east veranda stretches across the Blue River valley and the site of the engagements at Byram's Ford on Oct. 22 and 23, 1864.

...The Fund's preservation efforts have focused on the Byram's Ford site at the crossing of the Blue River and adjacent Meadow area over which 16,000 troops clashed on Oct. 22 and 23, 1864. Although the site was marred by an industrial park development, the Fund commenced preservation in 1983 by acquiring the Byram's Ford crossing, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Fund in 1995 transferred this tract and others containing more than 100 acres to the Kansas City Parks Department for management as the Big Blue Battlefield Park. Today a mile-long corridor along the Byram's Ford Road across the battlefield, containing more than 200 acres, is now in the public domain.

In 2006 the Fund launched its "Saving Kansas City's Battlefield" initiative, providing for the removal of all of structures from the 70 acres constituting the area known as the Meadow and remediating the landscape to its 1864 appearance. Today 60 acres of the Meadow is protected.

Saving Kansas City's Battlefield is the most challenging battlefield preservation effort in the nation except for perhaps the Battle of

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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 editor@chicagocwrt.org.

Franklin. At both Westport and Franklin, comparable restoration programs have begun to reverse the encroachment of the urban landscape upon Hallowed Ground.

The Saving initiative received the enthusiastic endorsement of the Kansas City Park Commissioners. Further support and endorsement of the initiative came from Paul Hawke, Chief of the American Battlefield Protection Program; Hon. Kay Barnes, former mayor of Kansas City, Mo.; and Jonathan M. Kemper, CEO of Commerce Bank and past chairman and trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Fund Chairman Daniel L. Smith and Director Shirley Christian, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, co-chair the Saving Kansas City's Battlefield acquisition effort. A video depicting the project is at www.battleofwestport.org/Video.htm.

Contributions to these funding efforts may be made online by going to the website at www.battleofwestport.org.

In the words of the late Jerry Russell, "we who study, must strive to save!"

Society Buys Rare 1860 New York Wide Awakes Banner

By Bill Bleyer

(October 2014 Civil War News)

MATTITUCK, N.Y. — A furled silk banner discovered in the attic of a Long Island store has given the Southold Historic Society a link to the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War that resulted.

The extremely rare artifact, acquired from a local antiques dealer, was initially used by Mattituck members of the Wide Awakes, a paramilitary campaign organization affiliated with the Republican Party and known for its torchlight parades with banners supporting candidates.

The Mattituck banner was repurposed at the end of the war in 1865 to honor local soldiers returning from the conflict.

The historical society, which purchased the artifact for several thousand dollars, is trying to raise \$14,500 to have it conserved and framed for display. ...

The muslin Welcome Home panels sewn over the original banner make the artifact doubly uncommon. “Welcome Home banners from the end of the Civil War are also very rare – and none are known to survive from Suffolk County other than this example,” Fleming said.

During the 1860 campaign which was contested by four parties, the New York Herald estimated that there were more than 400,000 members of Wide Awake groups across the country who were trained and wearing uniforms to support Lincoln and running mate Hannibal Hamlin of Maine. “Members of these groups dressed in military-style uniforms, often with cloak and cap, and carried six-foot-long torches mounted

with whale oil lamps that would be used in nighttime parades,” Fleming said.

“In addition, groups would carry aloft mounted banners – either preprinted or those made locally – that stated their support for the Republican ticket.” ...

The Mattituck 55.5-by-44-inch blue silk banner with wool fringe was attached at the top to a mahogany support rod designed to be used with an attached red cord to be hung from a vertical pole in parades.

“We know from local newspapers that on the day before the election of 1860, the Wide Awake groups of the North Fork marched in a torchlight parade through Southold in support of Lincoln,” Fleming said. The articles note that the Mattituck club marched in that parade, “and obviously that banner was there.” ...

The historical society acquisition of the banner was prompted when Fleming visited a local antiques dealer who said he had something they would probably be interested in.

“He pulled out this banner and it had these two pieces of fabric on it that said ‘Welcome Home’ and ‘Union Forever,’ so I knew immediately that it was probably Civil War,” said Fleming.

The rolled-up banner, found when the dealer cleared out the attic of an old store in Peconic, “was probably placed there right after it was used at the end of the war and nobody ever thought about it again,” Fleming said. “The silk is in remarkable condition. It is not brittle or falling apart.”

Fleming immediately began

fundraising to acquire the artifact even though they weren’t sure what it was “because we could see the outline of letters on the silk background underneath the pieces of fabric that were attached to it.”

He recalled, “As we began to carefully look at it, we realized it was an original Wide Awake banner that had been converted to a Welcome Home banner at the end of the war.”

The historical society banner was sent to the Textile Conservation Workshop in upstate South Salem, N.Y., for analysis and future conservation. The experts there removed the overlying muslin panels to reveal the outlines of the original glued-on paper lettering.

They read: “LINCOLN & HAMLIN – MATTITUCK – WIDE AWAKE – CLUB.”

The paper letters apparently were peeled off when the banner was reused. ...

Donations may be made to the Southold Historical Society, P.O. Box 1, Southold, NY 11971 or at www.southoldhistoricalsociety.org



Conservator Mary Kaldany from the Textile Conservation Workshop in South Salem, N.Y., examines the Mattituck Wide Awake Banner belonging to the Southold Historical Society. (Textile Conservation Workshop)

GRAPESHOT



The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is hosting a series of special events. On Thursday, Oct. 30th, Harold Holzer will speak on his new book, "Lincoln and the Power of the Press." On Nov. 11th Dr. Dan Monroe will present "Slavery and the Constitution in Antebellum Illinois." And on Nov. 14th, their lunchbox series will feature Allen Bucholz on "The Ozaukee County Civil War Draft Riot of 1862." For more information, visit their website at <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>

On Nov. 7th **Rob Girardi** will present "General Impressions of the Civil War" to the Military Miniature Society of Illinois. On Nov. 8th he will speak on "The Soldiers View" to the DuPage County Historical Society.

On Sunday, November 9th, starting at 11 a.m., **Rosehill Cemetery** (located at 5800 North Ravenswood Avenue in Chicago) will host its annual **Veterans Day Memorial** to the American Soldier. The Michigan Engineers will have a tribute to its recently deceased member, Sgt. Major Jerry Feinstein, the organizer of the event for the last 25 years. There will be reenactors representing all periods in American military history.

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

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in CD format. For pricing and a lecture list, please 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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

Nov. 3rd, Oak Lawn Public Library: David Kellar on "Camp Douglas"

Nov. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom DeFranco on "36th Illinois Regiment"

Nov. 11th, McHenry County CWRT: Charlie Banks on "Raids on the B&O"

Nov. 13th, Lake County CWRT: Shannon Mumm and her husband on "The Devastation of War"

Nov. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Steve Towne, "Detecting Deserters and Disloyalty: U.S. Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest during the Civil War"

Nov. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Harry Bulkeley on "U.S. Grant"

Nov. 20th, South Suburban CWRT: Ray Glick on "Horses in the Civil War"

Nov. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Jerry Allen on "Carter Van Vleck, Colonel 78th Illinois Infantry"

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.

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. 12: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address

Jan. 9, 2015: John Horn on "George Barnard and the 12th Virginia Infantry"

Feb. 1: Leslie Goddard on "Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory"

March 13: Thomas Huntington on "Searching for George Gordon Meade"

April 10: Michael Burlingame on "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"

May 8: Eric Leonard on "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville"

June 12: Garry Adelman on "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

Virtual Book Signing

November 1st at 12:00 noon (CST) the Abraham Lincoln bookshop will welcome Harold Holzer to the program. Harold will be discussing his new book, [Lincoln and the Power of the Press](#). Harold will also be at the Union League Club of Chicago on October 31st. On November 13th at 6:00pm (CST) Richard Brookhiser and Jules Whitcover will be discussing Brookhiser's new book, [Founders Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln](#) and Whitcover's new book, [The American Vice Presidency](#).

150 Years Ago - November 1864

Nov. 4th-5th Confederate raiders under Nathan Bedford Forrest wreak havoc on Union supply depots at Johnsonville, TN. Forrester's men capture two Union gunboats and use the captured vessels to sweep the Tennessee River.

Nov. 8th President Lincoln wins re-election by a large margin, defeating the Democratic party candidate, General George McClellan. Lincoln and his running mate, Unionist Democrat Andrew Johnson, win 55% of the vote. In the Electoral College, Lincoln wins 212-21.



Democratic Party Poster 1864



Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov. 9, 1864

Nov. 10th General William T. Sherman starts his "March to the Sea" He re-enters Atlanta on Nov. 14th and starts from there on Nov. 16th.

Nov. 22nd Battle of Griswoldville, GA. A force of Georgia militia attacks a brigade of Sherman's army and is repulsed with heavy casualties.

Nov. 28th Battle of Buckhead Creek, GA. Cavalry engagement during Sherman's March to the Sea.

Nov. 29th The Spring Hill, TN affair and battle. John Bell Hood's Confederate army gets in the rear of John Schofield's retreating Union army, but for reasons unclear to this day, fails to block the Union retreat.

Nov. 30th Battle of Franklin, TN. Hood's headlong attack on Schofield's entrenched army fails. The Confederates lose heavily, including 6 generals killed or captured. Schofield's army withdraws to Nashville.

The CWRT in the Past

73 Years Ago (Nov. 1941)—Stanley F. Horn spoke on "The Army of the Tennessee"

50 Years Ago (Nov. 1964)—Lloyd D. Miller spoke on "The Battle of Franklin"

25 Years Ago (Nov. 1989)—Herbert Schiller spoke on "The Bermuda Hundred Campaign"

10 Years Ago (Nov. 2004)—Dorothy Kelly spoke on "The Failure of Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign"

Camp Douglas Marker Ceremony

On October 20th the Illinois State Historical Society and the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation conducted a ceremony dedicating a Historical Marker for the Camp Douglas POW camp in Chicago. Speakers included Dr. Nancy Jackson of Prologue, Inc., Dave Keller of the Camp Douglas Foundation, and Russell Lewis of the Chicago History Museum.

The marker is located at 3232 S. King Drive.

A few photos of the event (courtesy Leslie Goddard) follow:



David Kellar



Russell Lewis



Unveiling of the marker



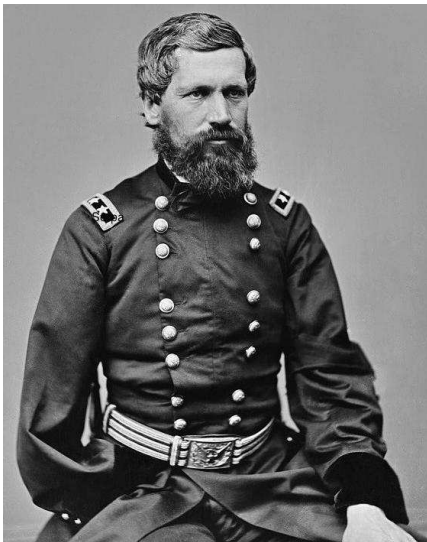
Re-enactors



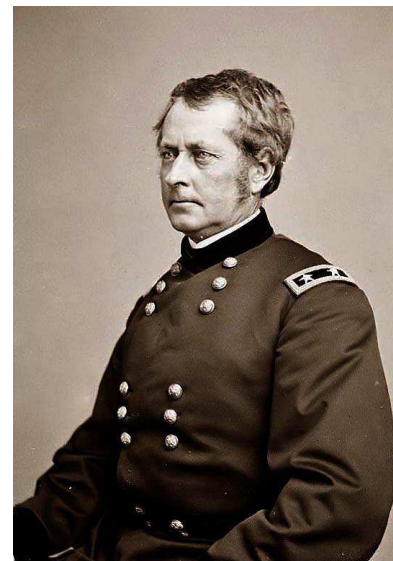
October 2014 Meeting

By Mark Matranga

Mark Bradley presented to the Round Table on “Joseph Hooker, O. O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign of 1864,” at its 735th Regular Meeting. Bradley compared and contrasted the characters, achievements, and leadership styles of these two disparate personalities who had commanded in the Eastern Theater where ‘fighting for defeat’ was the norm. Both were transferred west in the fall of 1863, where each played a prominent role in the battles for Chattanooga and in the Atlanta campaign.



General Oliver O. Howard



General Joseph Hooker

Both were West Point graduates with combat experience, Hooker in the Second Seminole and Mexican Wars, Howard in the Third Seminole War, where he experienced a religious rebirth. Hooker earned the sobriquet ‘Fighting Joe Hooker’ leading a division in the Peninsula Campaign, and was wounded at Antietam in command of the I Corps. Howard lost his right arm after being severely wounded at Fair Oaks in May 1862 on the Peninsula. He returned to the army in 1863 to command a division in what was now Hooker’s army.

Despite being “mercilessly critical” of his superiors, Bradley credits Hooker for rebuilding the Army of the Potomac after the fiascos at Fredericksburg and the ‘Mud March.’ He restored morale with a liberal furlough policy and amnesty to deserters and bolstered *esprit de corps* by

introducing the corps badge; a simple organizing device became a symbol for which men were willing to die. He reorganized federal cavalry, bringing it up to par with the previously superior southern mounted arm.

Neither man distinguished himself in the Chancellorsville and Gettysburg campaigns, but after Chickamauga in September, 1863, the administration moved the corps of Howard and Slocum from the Army of the Potomac, over 25,000 men with wagons, horses, artillery, and equipment, under the command of Hooker in what Bradley terms "the most impressive rail transfer of the war." Hooker's victory at Lookout Mountain and his move through Rossville Gap contributed to union success at Chattanooga, despite his repulse by Cleburne's division in the rear guard action at Ringgold Gap.

In the Atlanta Campaign, Hooker and Howard commanded the new 20th Corps (the former XI and XII Corps) and the 4th Corps in the Army of the Cumberland, respectively. Hooker's divisions rescued the luckless Howard at Resaca just as his force was being swept from the field by Hood. At New Hope Church, Hooker attacked Hood suffering considerable loss. Leading a task force at Pickett's Mill, where Sherman directed an assault, Howard's order to Hazen became "The Crime at Pickett's Mill," but showed that Howard was a 'team' player.

Hooker met Cleburne again, with no success, on the Pine Mountain line. With Johnston retreating to Kennesaw Mountain, Sherman decided on a flank move. Upon being assaulted at Kolb's Farm, Hooker's artillery inflicted substantial casualties on Hood's command, causing Sherman to order a disastrous frontal assault on Kennesaw which included Howard's corps. With this repulse, Sherman mounted another flanking movement which maneuvered Johnston into the defenses of Atlanta.

Hood replaced Johnston and embarked on a series of assaults, including the Battle of Atlanta where General MacPherson was killed. Sherman chose the 'tractable' Howard to replace him over Logan, an excellent but political general, and Hooker, who outranked Howard but who had "made himself unwelcome." With this, Hooker resigned, to be seen next leading Lincoln's funeral. Howard commanded of the Army of the Tennessee in the March to the Sea and Carolinas Campaign and was present at Johnson's surrender.

While Hooker resigned from the army in 1868. Howard's career continued: head of the Freedman's Bureau, co-founder of Howard University, and Indian fighter. He retired in 1894.

Bradley concluded by reflecting on command in the western theater, where Hooker's and Howard's success was based primarily on the fact that the south "could not clone Lee." For Howard's part, Bradley opined that he was best fit for army command; corps command remained the highest position of tactical responsibility during the civil war, and Howard was wanting in that skill - witness Pickett's Mill. For Bradley, it was better that the Shermans, Schofields, and Howards exercised army command and left the fighting to generals like Logan and Jacob Cox.