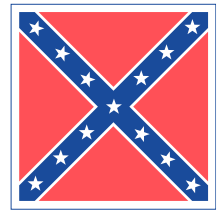


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

April 2015



741ST REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, April 10th

★★★★★

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: Chicken
Asiago or Baked
Halibut*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, April 9, 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 \$25 with validation. More if not validated Other parking is available at 437 N. Orleans.

Michael Burlingame

on

The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Several years ago, author Nora Titone addressed our CWRT on the Booth Brothers and the Lincoln assassination, based on her book *My Thoughts Be Bloody*. On April 10th, distinguished Lincoln historian Michael Burlingame will speak on John Wilkes Booth, and what drove him to this bloody deed. The talk will focus on two things: Booth's intense racism and his peculiar psychology, especially his relationship with his father.

Dr. Michael Burlingame is a professor of history at the University of Illinois Springfield and holds the Naomi B. Lynn Distinguished Chair in Lincoln Studies. Burlingame is considered a preeminent national Lincoln Scholar and has written several books on the history of the 16th president, as well as other books on the Civil War era.

He has received the Abraham Lincoln Association Book Prize (1996), the Lincoln Diploma of Honor from Lincoln Memorial University (1998), Honorable Mention for the Lincoln Prize, Gettysburg College (2001), and was inducted into the Lincoln Academy of Illinois in 2009.



Michael Burlingame

Dr. Michael Burlingame's book *Abraham Lincoln: A Life* was picked by The Atlantic Monthly magazine as one of the top five books of 2009. It won the 2010 Lincoln Prize, sponsored by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute for American History and Gettysburg College, for the finest scholarly work in English on Abraham Lincoln, or the American Civil War soldier, or a subject relating to their era. It also

was a co-winner of the annual book prize awarded by the Abraham Lincoln Institute of Washington, D.C., and won the Russell P. Strange Book Award given annually by the

Illinois State Historical Society for the best book on Illinois history.

To quote Alan Guelzo's review of "Abraham Lincoln: A Life": "If you want to read for amusement, read Holzer's *Lincoln, President-Elect* or Lachman's *The Last Lincolns*. If you want to read for comprehension, read Burlingame, because from now and into the foreseeable future, Burlingame's is the touchstone biography everyone who aspires to the study of Lincoln must embrace, cite, read, and occasionally quarrel with."



HERITAGE TOURISM: PRESERVING THE ROUTE OF LEE'S RETREAT FROM PETERSBURG TO APPOMATTOX

By Chris Calkins (April 2015 *Civil War News - Preservation Column*)

Heritage Tourism: Preserving the Route of Lee's Retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox – the idea was certainly not a new one. As far back as the late 1920s, the Virginia State Commission on Conservation and Development began a program of placing historical highway markers at points of significance.

One subject matter addressed was "Lee's Retreat," historically known as The Appomattox Campaign. Eventually some 31 signs were erected, 10 being simply noted as "Lee's Retreat." Usually a state marker handbook proved more convenient to read as few markers had pullovers.

In 1993, a group composed of County Administrators, Directors of Economic Development and Tourism, elected officials, along with Division of State Parks and Petersburg-Appomattox National Park historians met with the idea of laying out a possible historical driving tour.

This tour route would pass through seven counties and the towns of Farmville and Appomattox, along with the city of Petersburg, and would mark the route of "Lee's Retreat."

In time, this loosely knit group became known as "The Southern Piedmont Retreat Consortium," and went to work planning a 20-stop driving tour.

Each interpretive site would have parking large enough for two buses, while visitors could listen on their car radios to a narrative of what happened at a site by tuning into 1610 AM. Signage and waysides would provide additional instructions and maps for taking the tour of about 100 miles in length. ...

Spring of 1995 was set as the date for the project's completion, being the

130th anniversary of the Appomattox Campaign. LIFE magazine did a special article about this new driving tour which was eventually expanded to 26 stops thanks to interested localities.

As time went on, other Heritage Tourism sites joined in, eventually to be coordinated by the umbrella organization of "Virginia's Civil War Trails." Soon other states joined in developing their own driving tours. It was "Lee's Retreat" that led the way and became the grandfather of them all.

Jump ahead to the Commonwealth of Virginia's Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration. The first stop of the "Lee's Retreat" driving tour is in downtown Petersburg, where the 1854 South Side Railroad Station was restored as an information center for the city and National Park Service's Home Front Unit.

Stop Two has been developed into the nationally recognized Pamplin Historical Park, commemorating the April 2, 1865, Sixth Corps Breakthrough. In conjunction with the story of the final days of the Siege of Petersburg, Petersburg National Battlefield now has a fully developed battlefield at Five Forks, complete with a new visitor center and trails. ...

In 2008, Sailor's Creek Battlefield became a "stand alone" park. It is now fully developed with a Visitor Center/Museum, restored field hospital (Hillsman farm house), driving tour and interpretive walking trails. Just six miles away, near Farmville, is the new High Bridge Trail State Park. The original South Side Railroad line has been removed and provides a 31-mile walking, biking, equestrian trail. ...

As one approaches the village of Appomattox Court House National

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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.

Historical Park from the northeast, about four miles away one can stop at the last trench built by Lee's Army of Northern Virginia to protect his rear guard.

Continuing on past the park, one reaches the current Town of Appomattox, then known as Appomattox Station. On the night of April 8 Union cavalry captured Lee's supply train waiting for him here, then attacked his artillery and wagon train. Portions of this battlefield were purchased by Civil War Trust and are currently being developed by the park's local friends group, the Appomattox 1865 Foundation. ...

"Lee's Retreat: The Final Campaigns" driving tour maps are available by calling 1-888-CIVIL WAR or 1-800-6-RETREAT. You can download a map by going to www.civilwartraveler.com. For the interpretive brochure "African Americans on Lee's Retreat" go to www.varetreat.com

CDs with the entire 26-stop narratives are available at most associated sites with bookstores: City of Petersburg, Petersburg National Battlefield, Pamplin Park, Five Forks, Sailor's Creek and Appomattox. Lee's Retreat: A History and Field Guide is also available at most places to provide supplemental information to the driving tour.

McAuliffe For Joining Fort Monroe Parts

By Scott C. Boyd (February/March 2015 Civil War News)

FORTMONROE, Va. – He hasn't put it in writing, but Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has verbally called for a "contiguous national monument" at Fort Monroe, joining the two federally-protected parcels controlled by the National Park Service.

An email from the governor's communications director, Brian Coy, was cited in a November newspaper article. McAuliffe made similar remarks at a Dec. 2 public meeting at Buckroe Beach, an area in the City of Hampton, just north of Fort Monroe.

"We shouldn't be cutting up Fort Monroe – it should be a continuous park, so people can enjoy it," McAuliffe said, according to an article in the regional Daily Press newspaper.

President Barack Obama created the Fort Monroe National Monument on Nov. 1, 2011, six weeks after the closing of the U.S. Army post that had been at the fort since its completion in 1834, and the return of the land to the Commonwealth of Virginia (see December 2011 CWN).

One of the national monument's features is that it is comprised of two parts divided by an area called the Wherry Quarter.

The Fort Monroe Authority (FMA), the state entity that operates the land reclaimed from the Army, and which is supposed to be economically self-supporting, includes residential development in the Wherry Quarter, according to its master plan.

When Civil War News asked about the economic impact to the FMA of the Wherry Quarter being added to the Fort

Monroe National Monument instead of being developed, the FMA referred questions to the governor's office, which did not respond by presstime.

In a Sept. 22, 2012, Daily Press op-ed, Mark Perreault, president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, explained the issue.

"Essentially, the FMA must choose between two visions of Wherry: a developed area with limited public use that diminishes the fort's appeal and provides only short-term revenue, or a beautiful public space that will benefit Fort Monroe and the region both culturally and economically forever."

Word of McAuliffe's interest enthused preservationists.

Joining the two parts of the national monument would "make whole" the "preposterously split national monument" that exists now, wrote Steve Corneliusen, of FortMonroeNationalPark.org, to the Daily Press on November 28.

"Protecting the green space that connects the park's Star Fort and North Beach area as parkland will increase recreational opportunities while preventing incompatible development that threatens to separate the park's two sections," Pamela E. Goddard, National Parks Conservation Association Senior Manager, Chesapeake & Virginia Programs, wrote in a Nov. 17 letter published by the Daily Press.

Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer wrote, "I commend Gov. McAuliffe and all others who are striving to make a

unified and economically vibrant Fort Monroe a reality," in a letter published by the Daily Press on November 24.

Additional opinions are shared on Facebook at Save Fort Monroe

Appomattox Surrender Ceremony in Chicago

Dave Keller writes: "On April 9 the Camp Douglas Foundation along with the Chicago History Museum will participate in the National Park Service "Bells across America-Appomattox" ceremony commemorating the surrender of Lee at Appomattox.

The Camp Douglas chapel bell will be rung as part of a special program at the museum beginning at 1:30 pm. The bell, along with the table on which Lee signed the surrender, are now on exhibit at the museum.

Our goal is to have four descendants of prisoners, guards or mustered in soldiers at the camp to participate in the ringing. I am looking for names of individuals who meet these criteria. Any names and contact information you could provide would be appreciated."

The annual CWRT election for officers will be at the May meeting. As in prior years, the nomination committee will present its selections, and members present at the meeting can make other nominations from the floor.

GRAPESHOT



On April 9th, at the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, MI, **Bruce Allardice** will present "Baseball in Grand Rapids During the Civil War Era," to the Grand Rapids CWRT and Historical Society. Bruce will be delivering a talk to the Manitowoc CWRT on April 13th on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals."

On April 13 and April 22, **Rob Girardi** will be speaking to the Ann Arbor CWRT and the St. Louis CWRT on "The Murder of General Bull Nelson."

At the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** on April 10th, **Rob Girardi** and **Paula Walker** will speak on General Gouverneur K. Warren. Information on museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

An April 25th the **Clarke House Museum** in Chicago will be holding a symposium titled "Fugitives & Freeman," focusing on African-American Life in early Chicago. For more information, visit www.ClarkeHouseMuseum.org.

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

- Apr. 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Ray Guttendorf on "Illinois Memory of the Civil War"
- Apr. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Frank Varney on "General Grant and the Rewriting of History"
- Apr. 9th, Lake County CWRT:
Jerry Kowalski as "General George Thomas"
- Apr. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT:
Michael Burlingame on "The Lincoln Assassination"
- Apr. 14th, McHenry County CWRT:
Ron Halverson on "The Man Who Knew Lincoln"
- Apr. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Doug Dammann on "Elmer Ellsworth and the U.S. Zouave Cadets"
- Apr. 18th: DuPage County Civil War and Military Memorabilia Show
- Apr. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Ed Bonekemper on "Grant: A Victor not a Butcher"
- Apr. 23rd, South Suburban CWRT: David Scupham on "A Personal Account of Surviving Andersonville"

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*.

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

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

Sept. 11: Dale Phillips on "The Capture of New Orleans"

Oct. 9: Dennis Frye, Nevins-Freeman Award: "John Brown: The Spark that Ignited War"

Nov. 13: Philip Leigh on "Trading with the Enemy"

Dec. 11: Dave Keller on "Camp Douglas"

Virtual Book Signing

Join the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** on April 2nd. We welcome Scott Martelle & John Waugh. Martelle will discuss *The Madman & The Assassin*; Waugh will discuss *Lincoln at War's End*. Ordering opens February 27. Learn more about these books and order yours at http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor_2.

150 Years Ago - April, 1865

April 1st: Battle of Five Forks, VA. George Pickett's Confederates could not withstand the federal envelopment move around Petersburg that began here. Sheridan routs Pickett's forces and seizes the Southside Railroad, Richmond's last supply link to the south.

2nd: Battle of Fort Blakely. Union troops capture this fort guarding Mobile, AL, forcing the Confederate garrison to evacuate the city.

2nd: Union army assault captures large parts of the Petersburg fortifications. With the Petersburg line crumbling, Lee informs Davis he will abandon his position that evening. The Confederate government evacuates Richmond.

2nd: Battle of Selma, AL. Gen. James Wilson's Union cavalry raiders defeat Forrest's Confederate forces and occupy the city.

3rd: Union troops occupy Petersburg and Richmond

4th: President Lincoln visits Richmond, walking to the Confederate White House among cheering crowds, mostly freed slaves. A detachment of 10 men protected him.

6th: Battle of Saylor's Creek (Sailor's Creek), VA. The Army of the Potomac defeats Confederate forces that had accidentally become separated from the main body of Lee's Army. 8,000 Confederate soldiers are forced to surrender.

7th: Gen. U. S. Grant begins communication with Lee known as the "Surrender Letters."

8th: Battle of Appomattox Station, VA. Cavalry under Phillip Sheridan strikes the rail depot south of the Appomattox Court House, driving Rebels back and capturing essential supplies.

9th: After attempting to break-out of the Union envelopment, Robert E. Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at the home of Wilmer McLean in Appomattox Court House.

11th: Confederate government withdraws to North Carolina.

14th: United States President Abraham Lincoln is assassinated on Good Friday by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theatre, Washington, D. C.

15th: Abraham Lincoln dies in a boardinghouse opposite Ford's Theater. Andrew Johnson takes the oath of office.

18th: Gens. William T. Sherman and Joe Johnston reach agreement on the surrender of all remaining armies in the Confederacy.

19th: The nation mourns U. S. President Abraham Lincoln at his funeral in Washington, D. C.

24th: General W. T. Sherman learns of new President Andrew Johnson's rejection of his surrender terms to Joe Johnston. General Grant, who personally delivered the message, orders Sherman to commence operations against Johnson within 48 hours. Sherman is incensed but obeys orders.

26th: Joe Johnston surrenders to William Tecumseh Sherman

26th: John Wilkes Booth is shot and killed while fleeing a burning tobacco shed in VA.

26th: The Sultana, a steamboat carrying former prisoners-of-war, explodes on the Mississippi River near Memphis. Over 1,000 Union soldiers die.

The CWRT in the Past

70 Ago (Apr. 1945)—Robert L. Huttner on "The Slave Trade in American History"

50 Years Ago (Apr. 1965)—Victor Searcher on "Lincoln's Last Journey"

25 Years Ago (Apr. 1990)—Richard McMurry on "Confederate Journalism"

10 Years Ago (Apr. 2005)—Kent Gramm on "Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address"

Civil War Symposium in Wauconda

The **Lake County Discovery Museum** is hosting a Symposium Sunday April 26th on The Impact of the Civil War in Lake County. Contact Seleena Kuester at 847 968-3400 for details.

Civil War Symposium in Madison, IN

On April 11th the **Jefferson County CWRT** of Madison, IN will be holding a one-day symposium commemorating “the End of the War.” Speakers include our old friend Terry Winschel (on “Stephen D. Lee and the Making of an American Shrine”) and other distinguished historians. For more information, contact Kathy Ayers at 812 701-0127.

New Play in Chicago

From April 17 – May 24, The City Lit Theater, 1020 West Bryn Mawr Avenue, Chicago. World premiere play **The Bloodhound Law**, by Kristine Thatcher, directed by Terry McCabe, tells of both black and white Illinoisans whose lives were changed by the Fugitive Slave Law. Tickets are on sale at www.citylit.org or (773) 293-3682.

Civil War Educational Forum

Apr. 24th-25th, the Civil War Educational Forum at the Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel in Schaumburg will feature 2 days of presentations, including **Rob Girardi** on “Illinois in the Civil War,” the **Battlefield Balladeers**, and **Dan Weinberg** on “Current Lincoln Literature.” Phone 765 664-6520 for more information.

Lincoln Funeral Reenactment in Springfield!

2015 will be an extraordinary year for re-enactors, individuals and organizations that are steeped in Civil War history. This year not only brings to a close the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it will remind the world of the 150th anniversary that changed the course of American History – the death of President Abraham Lincoln.

For the first time since 1865, thousands of re-enactors, period carriages, visitors and dignitaries will, on **MAY 1 – 3- 2015**, convene in Springfield, Illinois, to pay tribute to our 16th President with superb events and, the unparalleled historic and solemn re-creation of the funeral procession to Oak Ridge Cemetery.

(Although **MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015** is the official anniversary date of President Lincoln’s burial, the above dates were selected to preclude weekday business disruption.)

United States and international dignitaries are cordially invited to participate.

“Mr. Lincoln’s Hometown Civil War Roundtable” invited members of all Illinois CWRTs to come to their open house, Friday May 1st and Saturday May 2nd, 1-5 p.m. at the Grand Army Memorial Museum & National Headquarters of the Woman’s Relief Corps, 629 7th Street, Springfield (just half a block south of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. They’d love to share some refreshments and “talk shop.”

Abraham Lincoln scholars are cordially invited to participate in the event symposia. Visit http://lincolnfunealtrain.org/2015_event.php for event details. See also www.lincolnfunealcoalition.org.