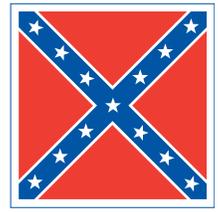


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 2016



748TH REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, January 8th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$50 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Pork Loin
or Whitefish*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Sunday, Jan. 3, 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 FREE.

David Moore on *Gen. William S. Rosecrans*

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

General William S. Rosecrans commanded the Union Army of the Cumberland in its two bloodiest battles, Stones River and Chickamauga. During his tenure in command, his Union army liberated Middle Tennessee and seized Chattanooga, the Gateway to the Confederate heartland. Yet, after the Battle of Chickamauga, he was dismissed, and relegated to minor duties in Missouri for the remainder of the war.

William M. Lamers' *The Edge of Glory: A Biography of General William S. Rosecrans, U.S.A.*, published in 1961, has been the standard and only biography of Rosecrans. David Moore's new book, *William S. Rosecrans and the Union Victory* (2014) fills the need for a new biography of this underappreciated Union general.

Moore claims that General Rosecrans, more than anyone else, deserves to the title of "the general who won the Civil War." To prove that controversial



thesis, Moore will examine what Rosecrans did in the war, his run-ins with Ulysses S. Grant, and the political machinations that (in Moore's view) hindered Rosecrans' otherwise-deserved place in history. As William Lamers rightly observed, Rosecrans was "close to glory" at times—but never achieved it.

In the words of historian Michael Ballard, "Rosecrans ... was a talented and innovative officer and engineer. At times he was a good leader, and his soldiers generally seemed to like him. He deserves a better hand than history has dealt."

David Moore has been a history guide on the east coast for over 35 years. He has spent 20 years researching General Rosecrans. His interest in Rosecrans was sparked by his coming across the grave marker of Mrs. Ann Eliza Rosecrans in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Washington D.C.



BRANDY STATION & CEDAR MOUNTAIN STATE PARK AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

By James Lighthizer
(December 2015 Civil War News - Preservation Column)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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On an overcast morning in late October, more than 200 people gathered at the crest of Fleetwood Hill near Culpeper, Va. They strolled along an interpretive trail to learn the story of the Battle of Brandy Station. They took photographs and admired peak fall foliage. They pointed out nearby historic landmarks and planned their next stop in the Virginia Piedmont.

The scene on Fleetwood Hill — part of the Civil War Trust's announcement of the restoration of 56 acres at the center of the Brandy Station battlefield — is a positive sign for the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance, a broad-based coalition of organizations that support the establishment of a state historical park centered in Culpeper County.

The initiative, which aims to transform close to 1,200 acres of preserved battlefield land into a historic park and tourism destination, has been building momentum and support since the official launch of the alliance in September.

Preliminary findings of a professional feasibility study, commissioned by the Civil War Trust to examine logistics and themes central to the park's creation, show visitation could easily reach 100,000 people annually and generate millions of dollars for the region. These numbers echo research from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which shows that a typical state park brings in \$4.6 million in visitor spending annually, as well as \$1.6 million in wages.

Additionally, studies from the Virginia Tourism Corporation consistently demonstrate that Civil War tourists to the Commonwealth spend more and stay longer. Median spending per average visitor in 2014 was \$200, compared to \$435 for Civil War tourists. Civil War visitors also stay an extra night in hotels.

The park's initial estimated visitation

would place it near that of Staunton River Battlefield State Park. Once established, this number could increase, comparable to a larger site such as Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The Virginia state park system is in the best possible position to promote and encourage additional visitation to the two battlefields at Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain. A regionally coordinated marketing plan that would include Culpeper's battlefields, its vibrant historic downtown, numerous wineries, and proximity to the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers could result in an economic windfall for the entire Piedmont region.

The primary draw for these heritage travelers is the unparalleled story of the Civil War in Culpeper County and the surrounding region. The 1862 Battle of Cedar Mountain was the first major conflict in Culpeper County during the war, and with over 2,700 casualties, the bloodiest day in Culpeper history.

...

The Battle of Brandy Station, the largest cavalry battle ever fought on the North American continent, marked the beginning of the momentous Gettysburg Campaign.

Union cavalry, long considered inferior to their Confederate counterparts, launched a bold crossing of the Rappahannock River in the early hours of June 9, 1863. They initially surprised the Southern horsemen, with charge and countercharge raging across the landscape for much of the day before the Federals retired back across the river.

The epicenter of the fighting was Fleetwood Hill, which overlooked much of the battlefield and served as headquarters for Confederate chieftain J.E.B. Stuart.

"Fleetwood Hill is without question the most fought over, camped upon and marched over real estate in the

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.

entire United States," historian Clark "Bud" Hall, a long-time champion of preservation in Culpeper County, has noted.

...

In addition to the lands owned by the Civil War Trust and the Brandy Station Foundation that could be transferred to the state park system, conservation easements protect over 3,500 additional acres in the immediate vicinity of the proposed park.

This preserved open space would significantly enhance the historic viewsheds and scenic atmosphere of the new park, while allowing battlefield lands to remain in their natural state or as agricultural sites.

...

A state park encompassing Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain would endow the Commonwealth with a unique opportunity to showcase the state's history, encourage tourism and provide recreational activities in an area of Virginia that has long pursued such a destination.

For updates on the efforts of the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance, and to express your support for this exciting initiative, visit the Alliance Facebook page at BSCMstatepark.com.

James Lighthizer is president of the Civil War Trust.

DECEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Dave Keller addressed The Round Table at its 747th Regular meeting on December 11, 2015. Founder of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation, Keller delivered a fact-filled presentation on the operation of Camp Douglas as a mustering and training site as well as its better known role as one of the largest prisoner of war camps developed during the war.

Camp Douglas opened in September 1861 as a site for organizing troops from the northern one-third of the state - 43,000 troops mustered in at the camp. The site met the criteria set for POW camps: a location away from the front and near a good transportation network. It was not the only Illinois prison camp: Rock Island and Alton hosted prisoners; Camp Butler in Springfield also operated as a prison.

Camp Douglas was located just outside the Chicago city limits, 60 acres bounded on the north by 31st Street, 33rd Place on the south, Cottage Grove on the east, and Giles Avenue on the west. Cottage Grove was then a new, macadamized road running from downtown to the town of Hyde Park. The camp was comprised of four parts: Garrison Square; White Oak Square, where prisoners initially co-habited with their guards; Hospital Square, which also contained the quartermaster, logistic offices, and a sawmill; and the Barracks, 66

buildings for housing prisoners. Although named after the senator, a gentleman named Graves and not Douglas was its owner.

There was little history of prisoner of war camps in the United States - previously, those captured in war were generally paroled. This complicated the operation of Civil War prisons. There was little training; neither commanders nor guards had experience in running prisons or handling prisoners. There was high turnover in commanders (Camp Douglas had twelve) and no preparation for long term incarceration.

Camp Douglas was one of the longest operating union prison camps, and saw the greatest number of deaths, five to six thousand according to Keller. It was common for prisoners to die within 30 to 45 days of being at the camp. Keller surmises that conditions at the camp were not the sole reason for this: the rigors of transit in crowded rail cars in cold weather; captured soldiers' lack of proper clothing; lack of immunity to common diseases; and the introduction of an unfamiliar diet were responsible for this phenomenon as well. Inadequate medical care also contributed to the rate of disease and death at the camp. Few prisoners were killed by guards, approximately 29, a significant number while attempting to escape.

The estimated death rate at Camp Douglas was 15-17%; Elmira, New York held the distinction of the highest, 24%. The overall rate in northern prisons was 12%, compared to the 17% mortality rate in southern prisons. Camp Douglas held 30,000 prisoners over the course of the war, with a population of approximately 12,000 at any given time, this in a facility designed for 9,000. This made the camp the third largest in the system.

The first prisoners arrived after the surrender of Ft. Donelson in February 1862. The last contingent came in December 1864, following the battle of Franklin. The war ended six months later, and by July 1865 almost all prisoners were released. By December 1865 the camp was gone but the deceased confederates remained, interred eventually in a mass grave at Oakwood Cemetery where their burial monument lists 4,233 names.

Recent archeological digs have revealed the foundation of the headquarters building and military artifacts and have revived the memory of this important part of Chicago's history. Hopefully, this valuable work will contribute to Keller's ultimate goals: a museum on the site and Camp Douglas on the National Register of Historic Places.

GRAPESHOT



Leslie Goddard will present on the movie “Gone with the Wind” Jan. 11, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Community Art Associates and Friends of the Lake Forest Library. She will also present on GWTW Jan. 14th, 1:30 p.m., at the Morton Grove Woman’s Club.

Bruce Allardice will present “Baseball and the Civil War” at the Gail Borden (Elgin) Public Library Tuesday, Jan. 12th, as part of their brownbag lunch series. The event starts at 11:45.

On April 30th, 2016, **Joliet Jr. College** will be hosting a Civil War Symposium. Speakers include Professor Don Doyle, on “The Cause of All Nations: The Intentional Impact of American Civil War”; **Rob Girardi**, on “Illinois in the Civil War”; Professor Doug Hurt, on “Agriculture, Food Production and the Civil War”; Professor Ted Karamanski, on “Chicago during the Civil War”; and Professor Nicholas Sambaluk, on the “Revolution in Technology during Civil War”. More details to come.

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 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

- Jan. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Steve DePasquale on “The 20th Illinois Infantry”
- Jan. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: David Moore on “William S. Rosecrans”
- Jan. 8th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Gerald Propokowicz on TBD
- Jan. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Rob Girardi on “The Real Warren Never Got into the History Books”
- Jan. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Phil Greenwalt on “Hurricane From the Heavens: Battle of Cold Harbor”
- Jan. 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Leslie Goddard on “Gone with the Wind and the Memory of the Civil War”

The Emancipation Proclamation

This month, 153 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, effective January 1, 1863, as the nation approached its third year of bloody civil war. The proclamation declared “that all persons held as slaves” within the rebellious states “are, and henceforward shall be free.”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Feb. 12: Don Doyle on “The Cause of All Nations”

March 11: Bruce Kraig on “Why the Civil War Made our Modern Food”

April 8: Greg Biggs on “Nashville: Siren’s Song of the Confederacy”

May 13: Glenna Schroeder-Lein on “The Solders’ Home in Civil War America”

June 10: Dale Phillips on “Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans”

Winter Board Meeting

The Executive Committee of the Chicago CWRT will hold its winter meeting Saturday, January 16th, starting at 9 a.m., at the Chicago History Museum. The Executive Committee consists of current officers and past presidents of the CWRT. Any CWRT member is welcome to attend.

Quizmaster—Volunteers Wanted!

The CWRT is looking for a new Adjutant General, who will do the quiz at our monthly meetings. If you’re interested, contact the president at CWRTPresident@ChicagoCWRT.org.