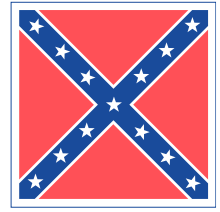


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 2016



751ST REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, April 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: Sirloin or Whitefish

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Sunday, Apr. 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.

Greg Biggs on *Nashville: The Siren's Song of the Western Confederacy*

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

In December, 1864, the Confederate Army of Tennessee laid siege to the massive Union fortifications and garrison of Nashville. In a two day fight, that army was all but destroyed. Their arrival at the city's door was the culmination of Confederate strategy that began when the city was captured by Union forces in February, 1862. Nashville, thereafter, became the "Siren's song" for Confederate strategy in the west luring Confederate offensives no less than five times.

On April 8th, Greg Biggs will detail the city's importance and each of the five attempts to retake it from 1862 to 1864.

Born in Elmhurst, IL, Greg Biggs has been a student of military history for over 45 years. His interest covers the ancient Greeks to today's military affairs with concentrations on the Napoleonic era, the Civil War, World War 2, military logistics and tank operations. He began speaking to Civil War groups in 1990 and has done so for conferences and Civil War Roundtables around the country. Greg also leads tours of the Fort Donelson Campaign; Atlanta Campaign; Tullahoma Campaign and the early Western rivers campaign (Paducah, Cairo, Columbus/Belmont)



for CWRTs, history groups and the U.S. Army. Greg has been published in Blue and Gray Magazine, North-South Trader,

Citizen's Companion, the Civil War Trust magazine, the Battle of Franklin Trust magazine, Civil War News. and several Tennessee publications. He was also lead historian for the Fort Defiance Interpretive Center in Clarksville, TN. A recognized authority on Civil War flags, Greg has consulted with museums, auction houses and private collectors across

the country and has been published on that topic in several publications from books to magazine articles. He has also presented lectures on flags to the National Civil War

Museum, Museum of the Confederacy, the Texas Civil War Museum and a national flag conference as well as CWRTs.

Greg lives in Clarksville, TN and is president of the Clarksville CWRT and program chair for the Bowling Green, KY and Nashville CWRTs. He is married to Karel Lea Biggs, a Middle School teacher. They have four cats named for Civil War cavalry officers.



BATTLE OF FRANKLIN LAND PRESERVATION PURCHASE

By Gregory L. Wade

Franklin, Tenn- What is considered the bloodiest acreage in the November 30th, 1864, Battle of Franklin is now being reclaimed as part of the evolving Carter Hill Battlefield Park. Local preservation leaders recently closed on a \$ 2.8 million purchase from owners Reid and Brenda Lovell after a months-long process of coordinating various funding sources for the critical 1.6 acres that adjoin the Carter House, a major battle landmark.

Details were recently provided at a press conference led by Franklin's Charge board member Julian Bibb, who praised the "remarkable transition" of the Franklin battlefield. Franklin's Charge is a coalition of civic and preservation groups who joined together more than ten years ago to purchase local battleground.

Over 150 years ago the Army of Tennessee stepped off in a series of charges to be virtually destroyed by Federals under John Schofield in hopes of taking Franklin and later Nashville.

At that time, most of the terrain was open farmland on the outskirts of what was once a small Middle Tennessee farming community. Over time development covered much of the battlefield with houses, light industry, and small businesses.

All that remained of the critical area where the Confederates temporarily broke the Federal line was the small farmhouse and a few acres known as the Carter House farm.

The 1.6 acres purchased, which adjoin the southern boundary of the Carter House property, is comprised of two lots. Today, they are occupied by a flower shop and other structures that were turned over to the City of Franklin Parks Department by Franklin's Charge and the Battle of Franklin's Trust (BOFT), managers of the Carter House the nearby Carnton Plantation. The structures will be removed in coming months, possibly relocated for other use.

The purchase is only the latest step in a long and arduous effort to rebuild the Franklin battlefield. "It had to be a miracle," quipped Civil War Trust (CWT) President James Lighthizer, referring to the most recent acquisition. Local resident Michael Grainger, long time Trust board member and former chairman, said, "Local leadership has been incredible and will continue to be a partner (with the CWT)."

In 2005, after years of frustration attempting to preserve Franklin battleground, local preservationists decided it would have to be done the hard way, by buying properties, often with buildings on them.

The largest parcel of land was originally a local golf course slated to be sold to a developer to build houses on what was the right flank of the Confederate attack north toward the Federal lines just south of town.

It was then that Franklin's Charge came into existence. Funds have been raised for the \$ 5 million purchase from private donors, the CWT, the City of Franklin and others. That 110 acre segment, now fully interpreted and known as the Eastern Flank Battlefield, is what got the preservation ball rolling in Franklin.

Since that time nine other parcels in proximity to the Carter House have been purchased and have been, or will be, turned over to the Franklin Parks Department, according to Bibb. But it was the land just south of the Carter House, long considered the most bloodied ground in Franklin, and some say in America, that was most coveted.

BOFT Chief Executive Officer Eric Jacobson noted, "to not have this ground reclaimed and preserved, would be like having Omaha Beach cut out of Normandy."

The most recent acquisition evolved when Franklin's Charge and the BOFT began discussions with the Lovells, who have a strong sense of the history of the land, having grown up in Franklin.

"I was born and raised in Franklin on ground many believe should have been a national park," said Reid Lovell. He recalled when visitors came to town and had to envision what happened, not walk on ground where it transpired. "My great-grandfather, who fought here, and my parents would be proud of what we are doing here today," he said at the press conference.

The Franklin Board of Mayor and Alderman voted unanimously in February to fund part of the remaining debt on the Lovell property purchase. The previously saved plots, valued at \$ 6.8 million, are being transferred to the city in exchange for \$ 1.08 million to be paid by the city on a non-interest basis over seven years.

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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.

These funds will cover the balance now bridged by a local bank and will be derived from the city's hotel-motel tax. Local banker Chuck Isaacs was instrumental in working out the loans. All the city funds are allotted as well as a donation of \$ 25,000 by his employer, First Farmers and Merchants Bank.

A \$ 1.3 million grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) was a major piece of the funding and the most complex, according to Bibb. "With help from city officials, the Civil War Trust and others at the ABPP, we got it done," Bibb noted. Other funding came from private donations including local Civil War Trust board member Grainger, who has been involved with other national preservation efforts.

Representatives of Save the Franklin Battlefield, the oldest battlefield preservation group in Franklin who for years advocated the possibility of a battleground park, attended the signing of official documents and "have been with us every step," said Bibb.

The site interpretation work will be led by representatives of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area who have assisted with the other reclamation projects.

Bibb said Franklin's Charge has not completed its mission and will continue to lead in its pursuit of key battlefield properties.

All agreed there is nothing like walking the ground. Jacobson said those who fought in Franklin would have wanted to walk the land. As it interpreted, he said, "We will see what hasn't been seen since veterans and slaves were still alive."

From the April *Civil War News*

MARCH MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Bruce Kraig regaled The Civil War Round Table at its 750th Regular Meeting on March 11, 2016, on "Why the Civil War Made Our Modern Food." A noted food historian, Kraig shared his observations of the many innovations in the production and distribution of food which emerged in response to the need to supply and feed large armies in the field during the war. He also illustrated how the north achieved its war aims not only by defeating southern armies but by 'starving' its populace.

Montgomery Meigs, Quartermaster of the United States Army and a principal architect of union victory, said "Food wins wars," an epitaph endorsed by Kraig. He pointed out that the plantation system so dominated southern life that the future confederacy required large amounts of imported foodstuffs. Cotton and tobacco depleted the soil, requiring southern planters to constantly seek more land. Cotton culture produced exchange to purchase commodities from the north, mainly pork and corn raised by Midwest farmers working small farms. The Mississippi river system provided low cost transportation moving products south - Cincinnati became such a major embarkation port for hogs that it was known as 'Porkopolis.'

The north devoted more acreage to producing grain versus the cotton-oriented south, but technological advances in agriculture also gave the north an advantage in providing for both civilian and military populations. The John Deere steel self-cleaning plow and the first McCormick reaper developed in 1847 revolutionized farming. Kraig cited the advantage: a man could

plow an acre of wheat per day, the reaper cut ten acres. Adding to these innovations, pre-war inventions in accessory equipment such as the bailer gave northern farmers a huge advantage in producing for the war economy.

The war closed traditional commercial arteries; the blockade slowly but steadily eliminated cotton as a source of income from European buyers (but not domestic ones: See Philip Leigh, "Trading with the Enemy," November/December CWRT newsletters). This affected the southern diet, especially for slaves. Kraig emphasized that strenuous work in the cotton fields required a 3,500 calorie diet whereas it is doubtful more than 2,500 were available to slaves. Horses and livestock suffered as well. And in a relatively unknown but important episode in the war, government forces captured the Avery Island 'salt dome' in Louisiana, one of the south's major sources of that essential preservative, shortly after the fall of New Orleans.

Salt was not the only preservative southerners considered vital to its diet. According to Kraig, the southern flavor profile tended toward preservation, making sugar and hot pepper necessary ingredients. Scarcity of these items and others caused southerners to learn to preserve without salt, find substitutes for coffee, and to find new uses for rice as a substitute for flour. While Meigs set up major depots for northern troops, federal armies were destroying southern crops and food depositories, both military and civilian. Within six months of the outbreak of the war, southern women complained of the shortage of salt; Richmond

experienced bread riots in 1863.

The war fomented innovation in food processing. Condensed milk brought a perishable product to the front. Massive quantities of meat reached the troops, thanks to the perfection of canning technology during the war. These advances helped relatively well-fed northern armies to best their confederate adversaries. In so doing, they learned of 'make do' food based on slave cuisine, and spread the word on southern cooking. Back home, the Sanitary Commission's fund raising idea - printing and selling recipes - started a postwar cookbook writing trend.

War capitalism mobilized men, machines, and material. As Kraig teaches, what we eat and the systems producing and getting to our tables were part of that. Food for thought.

BEARSS FUND

Once again the CWRT is soliciting donations to its Ed Bearss Fund. At the end of our 2016 Battlefield Tour the money raised will be donated in Ed's name to the battlefields and preservation agencies that Ed designates. And who knows more than Ed which projects are the most worthy? As in the past, anyone who donates to this fund will be acknowledged by having his/her name published in the newsletter.

Local historian Blaise J. Arena has recently completed "Private John C. Fleming—Civil War Soldier from Chicago," a blog based on the letters of a soldier of the Chicago Board of Trade Battery. Visit <http://flemingblaise.blogspot.com>.

GRAPESHOT



On April 30th, 2016, **Joliet Jr. College** will be hosting a Civil War Symposium, on the theme "Legacy, Social Change and Remembrance". Speakers include Professor Don Doyle, on "The Cause of All Nations: The International 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". For more information, contact Prof. Dennis Doyle at ddoyle@jjc.edu.

The *Civil War Museum in Kenosha* will hold its 3rd Annual Home Front Seminar on Saturday, April 2. (registration required). Speakers include Dr. Betsy Estilow, on "Patriots in Petticoats: Southern Women and Medical Care During the Civil War"; Kristen Patterson on "Extra Pay for Wisconsin Civil War Families"; Dr. Margo Anderson on "How the 1860 Census Affected the Civil War"; and Scott Wolfe on "Ulysses S. Grant and Galena, Illinois." Further details and registration information for Museum events can be found on their web site at <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>

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

- Apr. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Dave Jackson on "The Talley War"
 Apr. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on "The Grand Army of the Republic"
 Apr. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Greg Biggs on "Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy"
 Apr. 14th, Lake County CWRT: Dave Noe on "The Great Camel Experiment"
 Apr. 18th, Zion Benton Genealogical Society: Bruce Allardice on "Conscription and the Civil War"
 Apr. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: John Luna on "General Stonewall Jackson"
 Apr. 22nd, Salt Creek CWRT: Dave Powell on "Two Generals at Chickamauga: McCook and Hill"
 Apr. 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Jon Sebastian on "The Election of 1862"
 Apr. 29th, Midwest Numismatic Society: Rob Girardi on "Dark Horse: The Lincoln Nomination"

Leslie Goddard will be presenting "Clara Barton" April 6th, at the Kaneville Historical Society, and "Gone With the Wind" April 27th at the Indian Trails Library.

Tour Reminder

This year's Battlefield Tour (Shenandoah Valley, 1864 Campaign) is April 14-17, 2016. Sign up soon!

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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"

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop is Moving!

For those who have not seen the latest, it is true the shop on Chicago Avenue is closed—a result of an abrupt sale of the building and subsequent loss of our lease. We are viewing new spaces regularly. We have found a couple of very good prospects. However the nature of negotiations coupled with a volatile Chicago commercial real estate market have left us without a space temporarily.

We are actively posting new items at ALincolnBookShop.com and keeping in touch via our blog, Margin Notes here at the site as well as regularly posting on Facebook and Twitter.

CWRT Annual Election

The CWRT will hold its annual election of officers at the May meeting. The nomination committee is in the process of coming up with a slate of officers. As before, nominations from the floor are welcomed.