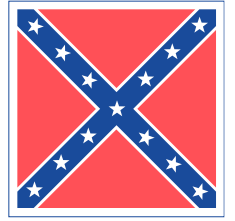


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Lance Herdegen *The Nevins-Freeman Address*



Named after famed historians Allen Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, the **Nevins-Freeman Award** is the highest honor the Civil War Round Table of Chicago can bestow. It is awarded for an individual's contributions to Civil War scholarship, and their dedication to the Round Table movement. Past award winners include Bruce Catton, James McPherson and Wiley Sword. This year we are proud to give this award to a distinguished author and long-time friend of this Round Table, Lance Herdegen.

Campbells are Coming" as the Sixth Wisconsin advanced on the railroad cut.

In camp, soldiers gathered to sing in groups and even alone. Music was much a part of soldier life those first years of the war and the young men played violins, harmonics, and other instruments for their comrades. Music passed the time. It entertained and comforted as well as brought back memories of home and family. It also strengthened the bonds between comrades.



Lance will be speaking Oct. 14th on "The Music of the Iron Brigade."

The Western men of the Iron Brigade—the soldiers of the Second, Sixth, Seventh Wisconsin, Nineteenth Indiana and Twenty-four Michigan—sang as they marched to Gettysburg and the brigade band played "Hail, Columbia" and stirring marches as the Black Hats charged toward Seminary Ridge. The regimental fife and drum corps played "The

Lance Herdegen is the award-winning author of several books and articles on Civil War topics. His latest book is The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter. His previous book, Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign, won the Army Historical Foundation's Distinguished Writing Award for Battle/Operational History



755th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, October 14th

★★★★★

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

PRIME RIB OR SALMON

A TALE OF TWO FAMOUS WAR HORSES

By Bob Ruegsegger

Lexington, Virginia, has all that remains of General Robert E. Lee. He is sealed in the crypt below Lee Chapel. Lexington also has most of what remains of General Stonewall Jackson—all but his arm—interred in Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery.

The remains of the Confederate generals' favorite war horses also rest peacefully in Lexington. The bones of General Lee's stalwart war horse, Traveller, are interred a few yards from his master's crypt outside of Lee Chapel on the campus of Washington and Lee University.

General Jackson's war horse, Little Sorrel, has been immortalized on post at Virginia Military Institute. Little Sorrel's cremated bones rest below the parade field and his mounted hide is on exhibit in the VMI Museum.

Both Lee Chapel and VMI average 40,000 to 45,000 visitors annually. While admirers of Lee and Jackson certainly account for the vast majority of the visitors, many callers also come to pay their respects to Traveller and Little Sorrel.

There are a lot of queries from Lee Chapel visitors as to where Traveller is buried. Visitors don't have to go far to satisfy their curiosity.

"Traveller's gravesite is right outside Lee Chapel's museum doors," said Margaret Samdahl, a former museum shop co-supervisor. "We have General Lee in the crypt and just a few feet away is his favorite warhorse, Traveller."

Traveller died the year after General Lee died. While romantics may love to think that Traveller, having lost his beloved master, died of a broken heart, that's not the case.

"Traveller, unfortunately, stepped on a rusty nail which caused what they said was lockjaw," said Samdahl. "It is now known as tetanus."

Folks who visit often place

a coin on Traveller's grave—usually a penny. They place the coin on the grave and make a wish. Tradition has it that Washington and Lee students put a penny on Traveller's grave for good luck on their exams. ...

Often visitors leave treats on Traveller's granite marker—apples, carrots, sugar cubes, peppermints. "Traveller is very generous because he shares his apples and carrots with the squirrels outside," observed Samdahl. "On the Lee family coat of arms, the crest is a squirrel, so we like to say that Traveller is sharing his bounty with the Lee squirrels."

When the Lee House was built, what now serves as the garage was originally Traveller's stable. There was a covered walkway from the house to the stable. General Lee was fond of noting that he and Traveller were under one roof. According to local tradition, Traveller's ghost was sighted running about the Washington College campus soon after he died. The stable doors—even today—are always left open—in case Traveller's spirit wants to come back. ...

Little Sorrel attracts his share of visitors on the parade field at VMI and in the VMI Museum on the lower levels of Jackson Memorial Hall.

"It's appropriate that Little Sorrel in his afterlife should return to VMI and be on exhibit in the VMI Museum," said Colonel Keith Gibson, executive director of the VMI Museum System. "He lived at VMI during his lifetime in the postwar years after Jackson's death."

Little Sorrel was returned to General Jackson's widow. For a while, he lived near Charlotte, North Carolina and toured the country for a brief period. He also lived out on the VMI parade ground. Ultimately, Little Sorrel passed away at the Old Soldier's Home, appropriately, in Richmond.

"The process of mounting his hide would begin immediately by an eminent practitioner of that trade at the time—Frederick Webber," said Gibson.

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1039 Hinswood
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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.

"Little Sorrel would remain at the Old Soldiers Home until in fact it was discontinued right after World War II," he noted.

With the closing of the Old Soldiers Home, Little Sorrel needed a new home. VMI immediately came to mind. The relics of Jackson's steed were brought to Lexington from Richmond and are enshrined at VMI since the 1940's. ...

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson has become an integral part of the VMI Museum through items given by his family to VMI over the past century. Little Sorrel, the horse on which Jackson was mounted the night that he was critically wounded, is an important relic in the museum's collection.

Thousands of visitors make the pilgrimage to Lexington annually. They solemnly visit the final resting places of Confederate heroes General Robert E. Lee and General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

It's comforting for horse lovers to learn that Lexington has not forgotten the revered generals' beloved equine companions.

Note: For more information regarding Lee Chapel and Museum, see www.wlu.edu/lee-chapel-and-museum. For additional information regarding VMI and the VMI Museum System see www.vmi.edu/museum-and-archives.

From September *Civil War News*

SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Steve Quick engaged The Civil War Round Table at its 754th regular meeting on September 9, 2016, on “The CSS *Hunley*.” Faced with defending an extensive coast line the Confederacy depended on privateers. Among those receiving letters of marque were Baxter Watson and James McClintock, steam boiler manufacturers in New Orleans who with financier Horace Hunley developed a ‘neutral buoyance’ device which eventually would become the first submarine. *The Hunley’s* development, historic short-lived maiden voyage, and eventual raising by Clive Cussler’s crew makes a perennially compelling subject.

The vessel which became the CSS *Hunley* utilized bilateral ballast tanks to achieve proper buoyancy and submersibility. Fins on either side helped achieve a hydrodynamic state. Although 40 feet long, only 20 feet were available for the eight man crew, seven of whom turned a crank powering the ship in a space 4’2” high, 3’9” wide. Given this confined area, *Hunley* could stay submerged only 30 minutes at a depth of 8 feet. The *Hunley* emerged in stages. Its first iteration, *Pioneer*, was a three-man vessel which validated the concept during a test in Lake Pontchartrain when it exploded a mine beneath a barge.

After New Orleans fell in April 1862, the ship was scuttled and operations moved

to Mobile. *Pioneer II*, financed again by Hunley and built by McClintock and Park & Lyons, sank near the mouth of Mobile Bay in February 1863 while being towed to Ft. Morgan. The third and final version, the *H.L. Hunley*, was also built in Mobil but was shipped to Charleston in August 1863. There it was commandeered into the confederate navy and there it sank on two occasions, first going down on August 29, 1863; all perished in the second foray on October 15, 1863, with Hunley in command of a civilian crew. The *Hunley* was again salvaged and Lt. George Dixon took charge. Despite its lack of success, the *Hunley* was repaired and a new crew assembled. Of interest is that only four of the eight man crew were American born; three crewmembers were over six feet tall. Dixon improved the weapons system by adjusting the explosive device to detonate at a speed of 5 knots versus 9 knots needed previously. He developed a barb-ended 20-foot long metal spar with 90 pounds of gunpowder fixed to its end. Once placed, the spar detached as the *Hunley* backed away, the torpedo detonated using an attached lanyard. With this plan, the *Hunley* sailed to its destiny on February 17, 1864, where just outside Charleston harbor it encountered the *USS Housatonic*. The *Hunley* lodged its spar into the *Housatonic’s* powder magazine, the

torpedo detonated and the subsequent explosion rapidly sent the *Housatonic* to the bottom. The *Hunley* did not return from the mission, its exact fate then unknown. Oddly enough, it was eventually found on the seaward side of the *Housatonic*, which suggests it was carried out by the tide.

Many feel the crew was killed by concussive force. Research has revealed the *Hunley* was as close as 20 feet from the *Housatonic* (not 100 as previously thought) when the torpedo exploded. Quick disputes this: Forensic study of the crews’ and well as the *Hunley’s* remains fails to show concussive effects. Quick opines that monoxide poisoning was the cause, a theory supported by the fact that the crew were found at their stations.

Among the many Civil War myths is the story told of George Dixon who credited a gold coin with saving his life at Shiloh when it absorbed the impact of a minie ball which struck his thigh directly at his trouser pocket. This was considered mere legend, but among the artifacts found in the *Hunley* was a \$20 gold piece minted in 1860, bearing the inscription “*Shiloh April 6, 1862 My Life Preserver G.E.D.*” Civil War lore consists of many truly remarkable stories; the discoveries derived from the resurrected *Hunley* are remarkably true, as Steve Quick so ably instructs.

GRAPESHOT



On Oct. 13th at 1 p.m., Mather's Café (7134 W. Higgins, Chicago) will host Bob Presman, who will speak on "Civil War Facts—or Myths!" Phone 773-774-4804 for reservations.

Rob Girardi will speak on "The Murder of Bull Nelson" Oct. 11th at the Bloomington (IN) CWRT.

On Oct. 19th, the Du Page County Genealogical Society will have Bruce Allardice presenting "Online Resources for Tracking your Civil War Ancestor." The presentation starts at 7:30 in the DuPage County Historical Museum in Wheaton, and is free.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum has several special events this month. On Oct. 14th at noon, they have a presentation on "Songs of the Civil War Era." That night author Ron White will talk about his news biography of Ulysses S. Grant. On Oct. 19th Bjorn Skaptason will talk about the book/movie True Grit and its connections to the Civil War. Their Civil War bus tour of Civil War sites in Middle Tennessee starts Oct. 23rd. Visit the museum's website at <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/> for more information.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, October 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 FREE.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

- Oct. 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Willie Dixon on "Blacks in the Civil War"
- Oct. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Frank Crawford on "The Centralia Massacre"
- Oct. 11th, McHenry County CWRT:
Charlie Banks on "The Battle of Monocacy"
- Oct. 13th, Lake County CWRT: Larry Hewitt on "Port Hudson"
- Oct. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Lance Herdegen on "Music of the Iron Brigade"
- Oct. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Dave Powell on "The Chickamauga Campaign"
- Oct. 20th, University of Illinois Springfield: Symposium on "Lincoln and Reconstruction"
- Oct. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Art Foley on "Music of the People, George F. Root and the American Public"
- Oct. 27th, South Suburban CWRT:
Brian Conroy on "Military Academies During the Civil War"

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Nov. 11th: Dave Connon on "Iowa Copperheads"

Dec. 9th: Bjorn Skaptason on "Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh"

Jan. 13th, 2017: Richard Sommers on "Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign"

Feb. 10th: Bob O'Neil on "Cavalry During the Peninsula Campaign"

Mar. 10th: Paul Kahan on "Simon Cameron, Lincoln's First Secretary of War"

Apr. 14th: Diane Smith on "Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign"

May 12th: Connie Hansen presents a "First Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade's mother"

June 9th: Don Sender on "Custer and the Little Big Horn Campaign"

Abraham Lincoln Bookshop Open Again!

They're open for business at their new address, 824 W. Superior St. (Superior and Green), Suite 100, Chicago. This month, their new "Author's Voice" series of interviews with Civil War authors includes (Oct. 15th, at noon) Ronald C. White on White's new book American Ulysses: A Life of Ulysses S. Grant and (Oct. 29th at noon) Thomas Army on his new book, Engineering Victory. How Technology Won the Civil War.