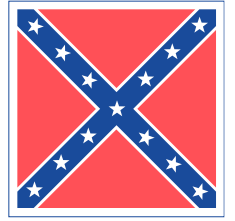


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Bjorn Skaptason on "Shiloh in the Footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley"



Before the famed journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley journeyed into Africa to find Dr. David Livingstone, he fought at the Battle of Shiloh as a private in the 6th Arkansas Infantry, CSA. Taken prisoner there, he became a "Galvanized Yankee," serving in the Union army and navy. He recorded his war experiences in a chapter of his Autobiography, which was prepared before his death in 1904, and then published by his wife in 1909.

This program traces a trek across the Shiloh battlefield in the footsteps of Private Stanley as nearly as can be determined by available evidence, and uses his own words to illustrate his experience. The program aims to give people an appreciation of the terror of combat as viewed by the common soldier, and will help them better understand the context in which Stanley's experiences occurred.

in history from Loyola University Chicago. He worked as a seasonal ranger at the National Park Service's Shiloh National Military Park and Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center for two summers while studying at Loyola. He still returns to Shiloh yearly on the anniversary of the battle to help lead special interpretive hikes of the battlefield. He has previously published essays on Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh, on

the United States Colored Troops in the campaign and battle of Brice's Crossroads for the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, and in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society on The Chicago Light Artillery. A dealer in antiquarian books, Bjorn produces and guest hosts A House Divided on the Author's Voice network, a Civil War book discussion program live streamed from Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago.



778th REGULAR MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, January 11th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE
5615N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.

Bjorn Skaptason holds a M.A.,

PRESERVATION NEWS

From The American Battlefields Trust: Here at the Trust, so much of our success depends on supporters coming together for this important cause. When you think of a matching donor, you may imagine a billionaire in a mansion on a hill. But, the stories of our supporters are often much more compelling and personal. Take, for example, a dear woman who was recently widowed and decided to donate \$10,000 to save Seminary Ridge at Gettysburg. Her only condition on this generous gift? That her gift be matched by other supporters of battlefield preservation.

Whether you give \$10 or \$10,000, you join other generous patriots in a movement to protect America's history by donating to save hallowed ground. And when you join this movement through a matching opportunity, you amplify the power of your gift even more.

This particular match honors the donor's husband, who always wanted to visit Gettysburg but passed away before he had the chance, and her father, a Lutheran minister who had a parish in Pennsylvania. She sees protecting these 18 acres at Seminary Ridge – some of the most historically significant land at Gettysburg still in private hands – as a way to pay tribute to the legacy of her loved ones. She became a matching donor with the hope of inspiring others to give and double the impact of her tribute.

Your gift will be doubled immediately to make an enormous difference in this fight. Please give the gift of history to future generations by making your tax-deductible contribution to this wonderful 2018 matching opportunity now.

...

We've still got acres to save before 2019 arrives! Our most urgent goals for what remains of 2018 are to preserve 18 critical acres of Seminary Ridge in Gettysburg and 50 Richmond-area acres that were hallowed first at the Battle of Gaines's Mill and then again at the Battle of Cold Harbor.

Fortunately, several of our most dedicated longtime supporters understand how important this is. From now until the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, these donors have agreed to match every contribution to the American Battlefield Trust up to \$100,000. That means your tax-deductible donation today will go twice as far toward supporting battlefield preservation and American history education. All gifts on our website will be matched, dollar-for-dollar.

CVBT SAVES PART OF SPOTSYLVANIA BATTLEFIELD

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has acquired more than 73 acres where local men fought for control of a hill during the 1864 battle of Spotsylvania

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1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
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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.

Court House.

The trust this week announced the purchase of Myer's Hill for \$450,000. The tract lies between the Ni River and Massaponax Church Road southeast of Plantation Forest Drive.

"We also have much work to do on the property," Thomas Van Winkle, president of the trust, said in a news release. "CVBT will need to raise \$460,000 to cover our immediate costs."

He said the acquisition "is an increasingly rare opportunity to preserve an almost completely intact battlefield—one that history has paid little attention to, nevertheless is so important to the entire story."

The tract pushes the total Civil War land purchased this year in the Spotsylvania Courthouse area to more than 87 acres, according to the trust. The trust has preserved nearly 1,300 acres total on the area's four major Civil War battlefields. (from Fredericksburg.com)

DECEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Dan Van Haften and David Hirsch presented the arguments made in their book "Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason" at the 777th Regular Meeting of The Round Table on December 14, 2018. Messrs. Van Haften and Hirsch have developed an original idea, that Lincoln applied Euclid's Geometry in formulating his most famous speeches as well as utilizing its elements in his legal practice. They maintain that Lincoln's reputation for spinning colorful yarns based on his rural upbringing is a superficial interpretation. Rather, they consider Lincoln to have used a deeply intellectual approach to legal reasoning and public speaking.

The authors cite Lincoln's desire to elevate his oratorical skills after what he considered a lackluster career in his sole term in Congress during the years 1847-49. This led him to the 'Six Elements of the Proposition,' Euclid's work. These are: Enunciation; Exposition; Specification; Construction; Proof; and Conclusion. These elements can be used to prove theorems by logic. This process involves stating what is given and what is sought, the Enunciation, takes separately what is given and prepares it in advance for use in the investigation, the Exposition, and makes clear the thing being sought, the Specification. The other elements follow: logic has no form without facts. The Six Elements are the "verbal form of the Socratic Method," which places language in "structured vessels."

The authors also cite Lincoln's early study of the Declaration of Independence. They maintain that Lincoln was brought intimately

in touch with Jefferson's method of presentation and argument in the Declaration. The authors deconstruct the Declaration using the Six Elements: Enunciation: "When in the course of human events...;" Exposition: "We hold these truths to be self-evident...;" Specification: "Governments are instituted...deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed... It is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it...;" Construction: "[A] long Train of Abuses ...;" Proof: "[W]e have Petitioned for Redress...;" Conclusion: "[T]hese United Colonies are...Free and Independent States..." Lincoln not only considered the Declaration our founding document, he was influenced by Jefferson's methodology.

Facts can be more important than logic; an assumption must be provable. But while facts are necessary to conduct an investigation, they can be understated. Truth can be simple, as exemplified in the Second Inaugural: "Both parties deprecated war; but one of them would make war... while the other would accept war... And the war came." Proof can be simple or complex, short or long, but it must be clear and understandable, and based on indisputable facts.

The Gettysburg Address also presents the Six Elements in a very concise speech. Lincoln set forth the Given: "Four score and seven years ago... Now we are engaged in a great civil war...;" and the Sought: "[W] hether that nation or any nation... can long endure." He presents the Exposition "We are met on a great battlefield," the Specification, "We have come to dedicate a portion of

that field...," and the Construction "[W]e cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate.... The brave men, living and dead, have consecrated it..." "It is for us, the living, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work..." The exhortation, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain," constitutes the Proof. The Conclusion comes with the promise that "This nation...shall have a new birth of freedom..."

Lincoln's Farewell Speech upon leaving Springfield follows a similar pattern: his sadness at leaving (Enunciation); what the town meant to him, the place his children were born and buried (Exposition); the uncertainty over his return (Specification); the great challenge facing him (Construction); the assistance of the Divine (Proof); and commending in the care of the Almighty (Conclusion).

The authors state that the story is in the words; the message is in the structure. The authors make a compelling case that Lincoln's critics were far off the mark in considering him a country bumpkin. Lincoln himself said that he did not seek applause nor to amuse people. He wanted to convince them. That he did.



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2019 Battlefield Tour of Vicksburg will be May 2-5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel will be our guides—and you can't get better than those two! More information will be forthcoming.

GRAPESHOT



The next “Friday Lunch Box” event at the Kenosha Civil War Museum will be at noon on Friday, January 11th. Dr. Greg Burek, M.D., will present “PTSD and the Civil War Soldier.” Dr. Burek studies the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and case histories of Civil War veterans to see if they exhibited similar symptoms of PTSD. The program is designed to increase understanding of the symptoms of PTSD and how patients cope with this disease. He also discusses the onset of what was at the time called Soldier’s Heart along with case histories and treatment of the disease during the nineteenth century.

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

Leslie Goddard will present “Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse” Jan. 28th at the Elmhurst Public Library. Visit <http://www.lesliegoddard.info/calendar.html> for more details.

Kevin Wood will present “Lincoln as Story Teller” Jan. 24th at the Justice Public Library. For more on Lincoln presenter Kevin Wood, visit <http://www.mrlincoln.com/English/index.html>

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

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Jan 6, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

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

- Jan. 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Debate on the Legality of Secession
- Jan. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Charlie Banks on “The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal During the Civil War”
- Jan. 8th, Southwest Michigan CWRT:
George Peers on “A Visit to Old Appomattox”
- Jan. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bjorn Skaptason on “Henry Morton Stanley at Shiloh”
- Jan. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Don White on “Women of the Civil War”
- Jan. 16th, Starved Rock CWRT in Ottawa: Drew Jessen on “The Flag on the Hilltop”
- Jan. 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Lester Lindley on “The Impeachment of President Johnson”
- Feb. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Harold Knudsen on “The Schleswig-Holstein War of 1864”

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 O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Feb. 8th: Rob Girardi on “Gouverneur K. Warren’s Last Battle”

Mar. 8th: John David Smith and Mark Larson on “Dear Delia”

Apr. 12th: Brad Gottfried on “Maps of the Fredericksburg Campaign”

May 10th: John Horn on “The Petersburg Regiment: the 12th Virginia”

June 14th: Greg Biggs, “The Nevins-Freeman Address: Logistics of the Atlanta Campaign”

Sept. 13th: Janet Croon on “The War Outside My Window”

Oct. 11th: Jim Lighthizer on “Battlefield Preservation”

Nov. 8th: Ethan Rafuse on “The Valley Campaign of 1862”

Dec. 13th: Dan Weinberg on “Artifacts I Have Encountered”

AUTHOR’S VOICE

Join us online on January 17th at 3:30 pm (Central) when host Bjorn Skaptason holds a dialogue with historian Chris J. Hartley about his latest book, The Lost Soldier a study in the domestic lives of the men fighting in WWII. Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.