

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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December 2019

Dan Weinberg on *Musings of a Collecting Voyeur*



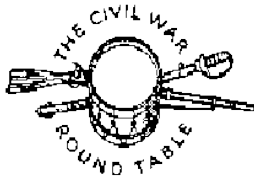
Daniel R. Weinberg has been president and sole owner of the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. since 1984, having previously been co-owner from 1971. Since 1938, the firm has had international reputation as experts in the buying, selling, appraising, and authentication of

On Dec. 13th, Dan will talk about historical artifacts he's been lucky enough to handle and the stories behind them. There will be an emphasis on unique items that have recently surfaced. He'll also touch on what it's like being a dealer in such artifacts.

Dan is co-author of Lincoln's

historical, artistic, and museum artifacts. The shop has conducted appraisals for libraries, museums, banks, insurance companies, and private collectors. He is also the founder of the Author's Voice®; interactive platforms designed to bring the experience of a book signing to any device in any place across the world.

Assassins; Their Trial and Execution (2001) and has lectured extensively on the subject. He has appeared on both CSPAN and the History Channel. Mr. Weinberg pursued his undergraduate work, in history, at Temple University, Philadelphia, and his graduate work, in the same field, at New York University at Washington Square.



787th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, December 13th

★★★★★

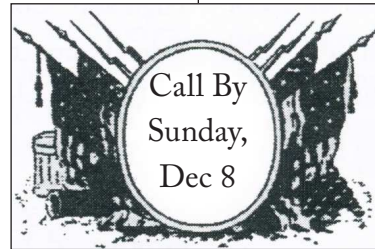
Holiday Inn O'Hare
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

Cocktails at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTREE
BUFFET STYLE.



PRESERVATION NEWS

JIM LIGHTHIZER RETIRES AS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

After twenty years of leadership and tens of thousands of acres forever protected, Jim Lighthizer (our CWRT's October speaker) is retiring from his position as President and CEO of the American Battlefield Trust. In tribute to Jim's service to our organization and the movement to save America's hallowed ground, we're proud to introduce The Lighthizer Legacy Fund.

This Fund will focus on three big goals: 1. The significant preservation of the Gaines' Mill and Cold Harbor battlefields; 2. Blazing the Revolutionary War Liberty Trail in South Carolina; and 3. The significant preservation of the key battlefields of the 1862 Maryland Campaign – Antietam, South Mountain, Harpers Ferry and Shepherdstown. Given Jim's passion for this cause, it wasn't easy to select favorites among so many worthy preservation projects, but these three areas hold personal significance for Jim and exceptional significance to our nation's history. Today, we have the opportunity to inaugurate The Lighthizer Legacy Fund by preserving 338 acres of Civil War hallowed ground, including 278 critical acres at Shepherdstown. Here are the details about the land and history that comprise these 338 acres.

Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Through a special U.S. Department of Agriculture grant and working with the Jefferson County Farmland Protection Board, we have a chance to save 278 acres at Shepherdstown, more of this battlefield than has ever been saved before.

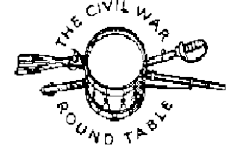
The Battle of Shepherdstown was fought on September 19 and 20, 1862, just days after the Battle of Antietam, as a detachment of the Union Fifth Corps pushed across the Potomac River at Boteler's Ford, attacking the Confederate rearguard and capturing four guns. Early on the 20th, two more Union divisions crossed to establish a bridgehead, but a Confederate division counterattacked while many of the Federals were crossing, nearly annihilating the famed 118th Pennsylvania regiment.

This action discouraged any additional Federal pursuit of Lee's Army, and, on November 7 (seven weeks after Antietam), an exasperated President Lincoln relieved General George B. McClellan of command of the Army of the Potomac.

White Oak Road, Virginia.

On March 31, 1865, as part of a coordinated Union assault at several points along the Confederate defenses of Petersburg, Fifth Corps troops moved against southerners entrenched along White Oak Road, but were temporarily stopped by a

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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.

crushing counterattack. However, this was 1865, not 1862, and the Federals were able not only to stabilize their forces but also stage a counter assault, driving the Confederates from the field and setting up the Battle of Five Forks the next day.

After pursuing an important 48-acre property for many years, the Trust is finally able to buy it, adding to its significant battlefield holdings that will eventually become part of the Petersburg National Battlefield.

(Continued on Page 3)

LIGHTHIZER FUND

(Continued from page 2)

Brown's Ferry, Tennessee. The third tract we have a chance to save today is 9 acres associated with the Battles of Brown's Ferry and Wauhatchie, part of the 1863 Chickamauga Campaign. While there may not have been actual combat on this ground, it is integral to the story of the Battle of Chattanooga – specifically the opening of the Federal “Cracker Line” from the nearby Brown's Ferry landing area. Most recently, this tract has been under dire threat of becoming a residential subdivision.

The historic log cabin on the property called “Brown's Tavern,” likely used as a shelter and meeting point during the Union's 1863-1864 winter encampment, is still standing. The tavern is also significant for its association with the removal of Cherokee Native Americans during the Trail of Tears.

Local and state organizations, including our preservation partner, National Park Partners, have wanted to see this property preserved for a long time. With expected federal and state matching grants, we can save this landmark site, with a nearly \$500,000 total cost, for less than \$20,000!

Bentonville, North Carolina. The fourth tract is a small but very important 3-acre piece of the Bentonville Battlefield. This land witnessed action, assaults and maneuvers on every day of the massive three-day battle, March 19 – 21, 1865. Acre by acre, day by day, we continue a decades-long effort to preserve the site of the largest and

most significant battle fought in North Carolina during the Civil War.

Just 30 years ago, there was virtually nothing preserved at Bentonville Battlefield. Today, we've managed to save 1,864 acres and counting!

When it comes to historic land preservation, no other effort, nor any other preservation organization, even comes close to the scale of what we have accomplished under the leadership of Jim Lighthizer. We hope you'll join us in honoring Jim's decades of dedication by continuing to build on his extraordinary legacy.

Please consider making your most generous gift now to help raise the \$64,976 we need to forever preserve these four Civil War battlefields in tribute to Jim Lighthizer.

NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD WINNER BUD ROBERTSON DIES

James I. “Bud” Robertson Jr., a well-known and nationally influential historian of the American Civil War, died on Nov. 2. Robertson, 89, an Alumni Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History at Virginia Tech, passed away after a long illness, the university said in a news release.

In his characteristic Southside Virginia drawl, Robertson lectured to generations of Tech students, addressed countless historical gatherings and discussed the Civil War via many media platforms, including a longstanding commentary on National Public Radio.

Robertson retired from his full-time professorship in 2011 but remained

active and maintained his public presence until his final illness. That energetic drive exemplified him, according to former colleague William “Jack” Davis.

“For fully six decades Bud Robertson was a dominant figure in his field,” Davis, a Civil War author and editor and Robertson's successor on Virginia Tech's faculty, said in the release. “He has become virtually ‘Mr. Virginia.’”

A Danville native, Robertson earned his bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon College and advance degrees from Emory University, all in history. During the Civil War Centennial, President John F. Kennedy asked Robertson to serve as executive director of the United States Civil War Centennial Commission.

In 1967, Robertson joined the faculty of Virginia Tech, where he taught Civil War courses to an average of 300 students each semester. During his 44 years at the university, more than 22,000 Virginia Tech students took his class. He ended up teaching three generations of the same families, according to the university.

Robertson wrote more than 20 books, with the best known among them his 1997 “Stonewall Jackson: The Man, The Solider, The Legend,” a biography of the Confederate general.

(h/t The Roanoke Times)



GRAPESHOT



The **Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI**, is hosting the following public programs and workshops this month:

Saturday, December 7, 10am-4pm. Victorian Christmas

Step back in time to discover the holiday traditions of the Civil War and Victorian periods. Families will delight in games, crafts, ornament making, and storytelling. Don't miss the special exhibit of 19th century women's clothing and accessories. Visit soldier and civilian living history presenters inside the main gallery. (Free admission all day!)

The Hospital Sites of Antietam Friday, December 13, 2019; Noon

The Battle of Antietam left behind more than 23,000 casualties in a single day, a medical emergency not seen before on the North American continent. Caring for the dead and wounded soldiers of the battle had far reaching implications for the farms and towns around Sharpsburg, Maryland. Dr. Gordon Dammann will discuss the hospitals that were created after the battle and how they worked for months to save the lives of the wounded.

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

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

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

Please Note

Make your Reservations by Sunday, Dec. 8, 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 LOCAL CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Dec. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Rob Girardi on "General Polk and Kentucky Neutrality"

Dec. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Holiday Party, featuring the Battlefield Balladeers

Dec. 9th, 2 Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN: Father Bob Miller on "Religion and the Civil War"

Dec. 13th, Chicago CWRT: Daniel Weinberg on "Musings of a Collecting Voyeur"

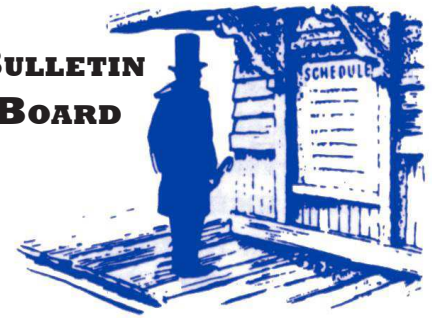
Dec. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Georgiann Baldino on "A Family and Nation Under Fire"

Dec. 19th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party

Dec. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Mysteries of the CSS Hunley"

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*.

Jan. 10th: Pam Toler on Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War

Feb. 14th: Connie Langum on Wilson's Creek

Mar. 13th: David Sutherland on VMI's Civil War Legacy

Apr. 17th: Michael Shaffer on Recollections of the 1st Virginia Cavalry

May 8th: Wil Greene on The Petersburg Campaign

June 12th: Brian Wills on George Henry Thomas

HOUSE DIVIDED

The next House Divided broadcast will be Dec. 7, at noon. Brian Dirck will talk about his book, *The Black Heavens: Abraham Lincoln and Death*. Going beyond the characterization of Lincoln as a melancholy, tragic figure, he investigates Lincoln's frequent encounters with bereavement and sets his response to death and mourning within the social, cultural, and political context of his times. Ron Keller will talk about his book, *Lincoln and the Illinois Legislature*. Keller reassesses Lincoln's arguably lackluster legislative record during four terms in the Illinois House of Representatives to reveal how the underpinnings of his temperament, leadership skills, and political acumen were bolstered on the statehouse floor. For more, visit alincolnbookshop.com.

November Meeting

By Mark Matranga

The 786th Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table featured Ethan Rafuse who delivered his account on Union and Confederate efforts in the Shenandoah in “‘Back to the Chivalric Days of Yore:’ The Valley Campaign of 1862.” Rafuse provided a detailed account of the strategic and operational environment in which the Valley Campaign took place as well as the complex maneuvering and many encounters of the armies. He also related the complex political forces within the Union high command which limited the Federal effort in the Valley and the unusual character of Thomas ‘Stonewall’ Jackson who gained a place in the Southern pantheon.

Jackson was born in January 1824 in Clarksburg, now West Virginia. He was orphaned and received a desultory education. Jackson graduated from West Point in the middle of the famous Class of 1846 (which included George McClellan), was commissioned to the artillery, and served in the Mexico City campaign where he received brevet promotions to major.

After the war, Jackson found himself in conflict with superiors. This caused him to leave the military in 1851 and take a position at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. He was not considered a great teacher – his students called him ‘Tom Fool’ – but he excelled at demonstrating artillery tactics and had a good understanding of military history. When the Civil War broke out, he was assigned as Colonel at Harper’s Ferry, serving under General Joseph Johnston. He fought at First Manassas where he earned the sobriquet ‘Stonewall,’ a nickname Rafuse said was not as complimentary a term as most think.

Jackson was later assigned to the Valley, taking command in November 1861. Arrayed against his Army of the Valley were three separate armies headed by Banks, Fremont, and Shields, whose forces eventually outnumbered Jackson’s three to one. Reinforced by Loring’s Brigade, Jackson commenced the Romney Campaign at the beginning of January 1862, a movement initially stalled by inclement weather and political infighting. Loring communicated directly to President Davis and Secretary of War Benjamin who countermanded Jackson’s orders, causing Jackson to resign. But General Johnston intervened and the matter was resolved.

Meanwhile, the campaign moved to Winchester and First Kernstown, the only battle Jackson ever lost. Although Jackson was compelled to retreat, Rafuse considered this a favorable development as the Lincoln administration, overly concerned with Jackson’s seeming ability to move without detection by Federal forces and fearful for the safety of the Capitol, kept McDowell’s command in Northern Virginia. Thus, despite Jackson’s retreat up the Valley to Staunton, forces previously moved out of the Valley were ordered back and McDowell was withheld from the Peninsula where McClellan considered him essential to his plan to capture the Confederate capital.

As Johnston moved south to defend Richmond, he left Ewell's division with Jackson who immediately began pursuit of Federal forces under Milroy who was defeated at McDowell on May 8 with assistance from Allegheny Johnson's division. He then turned on Banks whom he crushed at Front Royal on May 23. Two days later at First Winchester, he forced Banks to retreat, leaving scores of commissary stores. General McDowell was recalled to the Valley, prompting Jackson to retreat from Charlestown up the Valley once again; the end of May found him at Front Royal. The last battles of the campaign took place on June 8-9 at Cross Keys and Port Republic, after which General Lee summoned Jackson to Richmond.

Rafuse considers Jackson's brilliance in part in relation to his opponents' skills. He appeared to concur with Richard Ewell who, initially negative, later said the Federal army had "too many generals and not enough brains." Rafuse considered Jackson successful as long as he operated close to his base of supplies. But Jackson achieved much with few resources compared with his adversaries. He moved quickly to pounce on smaller Union elements and knew when to strategically withdraw into friendly country. And whether due to brilliance or merely the ineptitude of the Lincoln administration, his Valley Campaign thwarted a major strategic campaign that arguably could have ended the war in 1862.