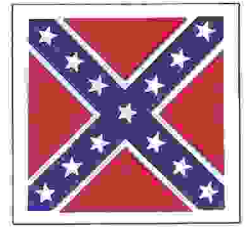


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.



Volume LXI, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 2001



597th REGULAR MEETING

**TERRY WINSCHEL ON
"SHUT UP AS IN A TRAP: CITIZENS
UNDER SIEGE"**

Friday, January 12

**HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET**

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

\$30 - Members \$35 - Nonmembers

*Entrée:
Chicken Venetian
or Catch of the Day*



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, January 8**, by calling registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

PARKING: If you are driving and coming from the south, turn left into the Mart Plaza lot just after crossing the river on Orleans. From the north, turn right from Orleans on Hubbard, left on Kingsbury, right on Kinzie, and left into the Mart Plaza lot. Parking is \$7 with a validated parking sticker.

Over the next few months, due to street renovations, the bridge south of the hotel will be closed. We apologize for this inconvenience.

TERRY WINSCHEL

~ on ~

"Shut Up As In A Trap: Citizens Under Siege"

A TERRIFYING ORDEAL

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

Most works on the Vicksburg campaign focus almost exclusively on the military operations centered on the fortress city. They neglect to address a key element in the equation—namely the civilian population of Vicksburg, Mississippi, who experienced the war in all its horrors during the long forty-seven days of siege.

These people and the story of their wartime experience will be the focus of Terry Winschel's address on January 12—"Shut Up As In A Trap: Citizens Under Siege." In his presentation, Winschel will recount the plight of these men, women, and children who experienced the most terrifying ordeals imaginable in a struggle to survive. Tapping on period letters, diaries, and memoirs, Winschel will weave a moving account of life in the beleaguered city.

He will paint a vivid portrait of life underground, where Vicksburg's citizens sought shelter from the storm of lead and iron that rained upon their city. The presentation will be enhanced by slides featuring scores of faces of the people who stood firm in the midst of conflict. Their lives were perhaps more directly impacted by the cruelty of the Civil War than people in any other American City, North or



Terry Winschel

South. They have left a legacy of courage and fortitude that will inspire all who hear their story.

Terry Winschel is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of The Pennsylvania State University. He also holds both M.S.S. and Ed.S degrees from Mississippi College. A twenty-four year veteran of the National Park Service, Winschel previously served at Gettysburg National Military Park, Fredericksburg National Military Park, and Valley Forge National Historical Park. For many years, he has served as the historian at Vicksburg National Military Park.

He has written forty-four articles on the American Civil War, as well as over eighty book reviews. He is the author of *The Civil War*

Diary of a Common Soldier, Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar, Triumph & Defeat: The Vicksburg Campaign, The Corporal's Tale, and Alice Shirley and the Story of Wexford Lodge; and the co-author of *Vicksburg: A Self-Guiding Tour of the Battlefield.*

Terry last addressed a regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in February of 1991. He was also a tour guide and speaker during our 1993 spring battlefield tour to Vicksburg.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817
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Phone: 847-698-1438
www.thecwrt.org

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 601 South LaSalle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

Ed Bearss donned a Confederate uniform and accompanied the troops during the final phase (six miles!) of the Loudoun County, Virginia, preservation march this past October. *Civil War News* reported that organizers and hard-core reenactor Robert Lee Hodge raised over \$50,000 by requiring that *each participant* raise \$100 in order to march fourteen miles over the two-day event. Bearss said that the efforts showed that people cared and that "We're here today to salute the heroes of the 1860s. We cannot let their legacy die as bulldozers trample them under the ground."

Thirty percent of the \$50,000 went to the Central Virginia Battlefield Trust, twenty percent to projects in Loudoun County, ten percent for a land purchase at McDowell, and forty percent to battlefield preservation in the Western Theater. Such events gather a lot of attention, drum up interest, and accomplish a lot of very positive things

... but Ed Bearss in a Confederate uniform? Next, someone will be trying to tell us that Ed was out by the river at Fort Henry wearing swimfins and snorkel goggles!

Looking for something you can do? The Civil War Preservation Trust's March issue of *Hallowed Ground* will have a list of participating sites around the country (including some that CWPT owns and manages) that could use some hands-on help. In the past, preservation projects have included painting signs or cannon carriages, reinstalling headstones, laying trails, sweeping leaves, or hauling trash out of a stream. With the lean budgets these sites have for maintenance, every helping hand means a significant financial and personnel savings for parks. The CWPT says that, at each site, volunteers will also learn about the sites they are helping to preserve from the local historians.

Every one wants to point to a bronze plaque or sign and say, "Look what we did." Why not lend a hand (no pun intended)

where it is truly needed ... even if you might not want to say, "Look at all the trash I pulled out of that creek!" **Plan for Saturday, April 28, 2001**, at a site that interests you, for a day of history, hard work, and hands-on preservation fun! Our CWRT of Chicago Newsletter will keep you posted. Make it part of your trip to the 51st CWRT of Chicago Annual Tour at Antietam!

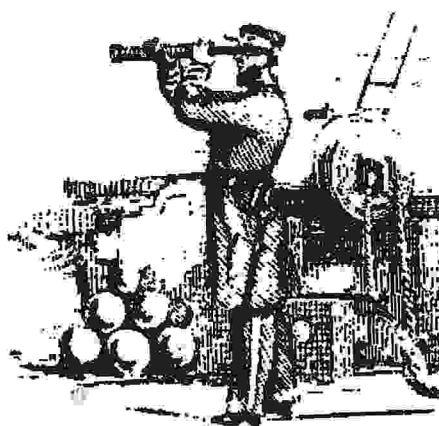
The National Civil War Naval Museum is scheduled for a grand opening in March of 2001, at Columbus, Georgia. The CSS

Chattahoochee, a wooden gunboat, and the *CSS Jackson*, a large ironclad ship, will be housed in a newly constructed building for that purpose. Both vessels were burned to the waterline at the end of the war and recovered from the

Chattahoochee River in the early 1960s.

Other exhibits to be on display will include a wide array of original Civil War naval artifacts and several reconstructed elements of full-sized Civil War ships. This should be an interesting place to visit and perhaps we will pursue some of these interesting subjects in future speaker presentations.

The Keith Rocco/Robert Carlson painting of *The Battle of Kernstown* is now finished and the planning for the production of investor prints is in-the-works. The numbered, full-sized prints will be pencil-signed and available in the spring of 2001. They will sell for \$160 plus shipping and handling, and order forms will be available to Civil War Round Table members soon. **All the profit from these prints** will go to the Battlefield Preservation Fund, thanks to the generous offer of Robert A. Carlson. Bob had an ancestor who was in the battle, and one of the participants in the painting should seem familiar. Our Newsletter will keep you posted, and thanks, Bob!



DECEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

"The Overland Campaign" was the topic of Gordon C. Rhea's stirring speech on December 8, given before 78 members and guests at the 596th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. A lawyer in practice near Charleston, South Carolina, Rhea is a popular speaker and the author of three books on the Overland campaign of May and June 1864, with two more projected for the future.

Rhea's presentation summarized the content of his first three books. This campaign, launched in the final year of the American Civil War, brought the war to its conclusion with General Ulysses S. Grant's relentless attack on General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The struggle continued from the Battle of the Wilderness on May 4-5, 1864, through the siege of Petersburg in the spring of 1865.

Rhea noted that when he began writing on the Overland campaign, his opinion of Grant was not extremely high, that he had been influenced by the charges lobbed at Grant, calling him a "butcher" due to the large number of Union casualties. However, he gradually changed his mind. "From my research," he said, "Grant matched Lee blow for blow; he was a superb general who was every bit as good as Lee." Grant's overall strategy was not to capture Richmond, but to attack and destroy the Confederate army's fighting capability—and thus bring all the killing to a speedier conclusion.

President Abraham Lincoln was concerned about his reelection possibilities in 1864. Should the Confederacy achieve major victories on the battlefield, his chances would be seriously threatened. As Rhea indicated, "In many ways, 1864 was the most important year of the war. Many decisive battles were fought after Gettysburg in July 1863!"

Prior to the Overland campaign, battles generally lasted only a day or two. When Grant attacked Lee at the Wilderness, his Army of the Potomac continued the pursuit for ten months. Grant realized that Lee might win a battle once in a while, but he would also lose Confederate soldiers with each battle. The battle of attrition had

to be won eventually by the numerically superior Federal army.

It was Lee's misfortune to lose key corps commanders at the beginning of the Overland campaign. Near the same spot where General "Stonewall" Jackson had been mortally wounded at Chancellorsville (May 4, 1863), General James Longstreet was seriously wounded during the Battle of the Wilderness a year later. Richard Ewell, who had replaced Jackson, was ineffective after losing a leg. A.P. Hill was very aggressive, but was incapacitated most of the time—possibly due to venereal disease. The brilliant cavalry commander, J. E. B. Stuart, was killed at the Battle of Yellow Tavern (May 11, 1864).

Rhea called the Battle of the Wilderness "the most daring plan of Lee's in the entire conflict." Ewell's and Hill's corps were to attack on two parallel roads to contain the Federals. Longstreet would attack the Union army in a surprise flank attack through the impenetrable forest. Lee's worst nightmare was realized when Grant recognized the rebel's strategic plan. Longstreet's "finest hour" took place at this battle when he organized a strong pursuit of the Union army. Suddenly, Longstreet was shot in the throat, seriously wounded accidentally by his own men. This stalled the attack and gave Grant time to maneuver his army out of the Wilderness.

Near Spotsylvania Court House, the rebels dug trenches in front of cleared fields. On May 11, Grant ordered a frontal attack against the mule-shoe line. After many hours of ferocious mortal combat, Grant disengaged to stretch Confederate lines toward the North Anna River.

In a race to reach the river first, Lee's army prevailed. By May 24, Lee realized his superior defensive position on the bluffs overlooking the river. But at that point, Lee

became ill with dysentery and was unable to see that his plans were properly executed. Union pontoon bridges broke the rebel lines. What was perhaps the last chance for a major Confederate victory was missed.

Grant pressured Lee by moving south. In his memoirs, Grant admitted that the Battle of Cold Harbor (June 1-2, 1864) was his worst military mistake. About 7,000 Union casualties occurred within twenty minutes of a futile frontal attack. Grant never considered retreat, though.

In Rhea's opinion, Grant's resolute determination to outflank the Confederate forces has been underestimated by historians. Grant's success in the Overland campaign was very significant to the eventual Union victory in the war.



The annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium, sponsored by the Abraham Lincoln Association and the Illinois State Historical Library, with support from the Illinois State Historical Society, will take place on Monday afternoon, February 12, in the Hall of Representatives of the Old State Capitol in Springfield. The theme for this commemoration of the 192nd anniversary of the birth of Lincoln is "Abraham Lincoln, History, and the Millennium." Presentations will be given by **John Patrick Diggins**, **Barry Schwartz**, and **Stewart Winger**, with comments by **John Ashworth**. The symposium is free and open to the public. For information, call 217-785-7954.

Historian and media commentator **Michael Bechloss** will be the main speaker at the annual banquet of the Abraham Lincoln Association. It will be held on Monday evening, February 12, at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel. Tickets are \$50 per person. For information, call 217-782-4836.

The annual **George L. Painter Lectures** will be held on the morning of February 12 at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield. Presentations will be given by **William Furry** and **Elizabeth Waters**. The lectures are free and open to the public. For information, contact site offices at 217-492-4242, extension 241, or via e-mail at liho_historian@nps.gov.

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Allen, Felicity. Jefferson Davis: *Unconquerable Heart*. U. of Missouri Press. 1999. \$34.95.
- Allen, T. Harrell. *Lee's Last Major General—Bryan Grimes of North Carolina*. Savas Publ. Co. 1999. \$24.95.
- Anastaplo, George. *Abraham Lincoln: A Constitutional Biography*. Roman & Littlefield. 1999. \$35.00.
- Bailey, Anne J. and Daniel E. Sutherland, eds. *Civil War Arkansas—Beyond Battles and Leaders*. U. of Arkansas Press. 1999. \$34.00; pbk. \$22.00.
- Bak, Richard. *The C.S.S. Hunley: The Greatest Undersea Adventure of the Civil War*. Taylor Publ. Co. 1999. \$29.95.
- Banash, Stan, ed. *Dee Brown's Civil War Anthology*. Clear Light Publ. 1998. \$24.95.
- Barden, John R. *Letters to the Home Circle: The North Carolina Service of Pvt. Henry A. Clapp (44th Mass. Volunteers)*. North Carolina Division of Archives and History. 1998. \$28.00.
- Boritt, Gabor S., ed. *Jefferson Davis's Generals*. Oxford U. Press. 1999. \$27.50.
- Campbell, R. Thomas. *Beneath the Stainless Banner—John McIntosh Kell, CSN, with Selections from his "Recollections of a Naval Life."* Burd Street Press. 1999. \$24.95.
- Carter, Arthur B. *The Tarnished Cavalier: Major General Earl Van Dorn*. U. of Tennessee Press. 1999. \$42.00.
- Chadwick, Bruce. *The American Presidents—A Dual Biography of Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis*. Carol Publ. Group. 1999. \$29.95.
- Colwell, David G. *The Bitter Fruits—The Civil War Comes to a Small Town in Pennsylvania*. Cumberland County Historical Society. 1998. \$39.95.
- Coombe, Jack D. *Gunfire Around the Gulf—The Last Major Naval Campaigns of the Civil War*. Bantam Books. 1999. \$23.95.
- Crist, Lydia L., ed. *The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Volume 10. — October 1863—August 1864*. LSU Press. 1999. \$95.00.
- Cushman, Stephen. *Bloody Promenade: Reflections on a Civil War Battle (The Wilderness)*. U. of Virginia Press. 1999. \$29.95.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-Shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.

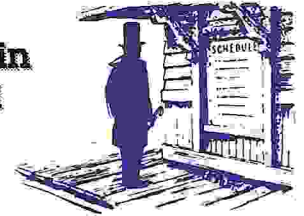
SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by late Round Table founding member Ralph G. Newman. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum rise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the last highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds go to benefit battlefield preservation.

We offer our deepest condolences to our registrar, **Carole LeClaire**, on the recent death of her mother.

The second annual **Women's History Symposium** will be held on March 9-11 at the Gettysburg Cyclorama Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. "Hearth and Home, Family and Children, 1850-1875" is the title of the three-day symposium. Speakers include **James Marten, Ella Forbes, Kathleen Ernst, and Joan Waugh**. The symposium fee is \$90. For information or to register, call 717-334-1124, extension 430, or go to the Gettysburg National Military Park web site (www.nps.gov/gett).

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

- January 12:* Terry Winschel, "Shut Up As In A Trap: Citizens Under Siege"
- February 9:* Jack Welsh, "The Medical Histories of Civil War Generals"
- March 9:* Mark Bradley, "The Surrender in North Carolina"
- April 20:* Richard McMurray, topic to be announced
- May 2-6:* Annual Battlefield Tour, Antietam-Northern Maryland
- May 11:* Anne J. Bailey, "The Recruitment of African-American Troops"
- June 8:* Lesley Gordon, "General George Pickett"

NEW MEMBERS

- Bill and Lorraine Lax, 1017 Vernon Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068-1959, 847-823-2052
- Bob Pavlovich, 4745-G Vlanders Lane, Harwood, MD 20776, 301-627-2787
- Mark Schmitz, 1813 Forest Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60018, 847-803-0329
- William Termini, 4515 N. Richmond, Chicago, IL 60625, 773-588-0119
- James Ullman, 536 Quarterfield Road, Newport News, VA 23602-6138, 757-874-3654

New E-Mail Address

Jerry Warshaw, jwarshaw@msn.com



51st Annual Battlefield Tour Antietam–Northern Maryland



May 2 – 6, 2001



The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's **51st Annual Battlefield Tour** will take us to Maryland. We will cover the Confederate invasion of 1862, beginning at White's Ford, following through to the battles for South Mountain, and then focusing on the climactic battle of Antietam. Sunday's tour will take us to Monocacy for a new look at the 1864 battle that saved Washington.

Several recent preservation efforts and acquisitions will provide us with many sites previously unavailable to us. Among these are the Landon House, site of J.E.B. Stuart's "Sabers and Roses Ball"; acreage on South Mountain; the Roulette and Poffenberger farms at Antietam; the recently completed National Museum of Civil War Medicine (the dream come true of our own Gordon Dammann); and the park at Monocacy, with vital properties of the actual field now in its possession.

The tour will be based at the Holiday Inn-Fort Detrick in the historic town of Frederick, Maryland. The newly redecorated hotel is conveniently located at the intersection of Routes 15 and 40A (West Patrick Street) in Frederick. We will meet there as usual on the evening of Wednesday, May 2, 2001.

Shuttle service will be available from BWI (Baltimore-Washington International) airport **ONLY**. We are planning 2 shuttles on Wednesday evening. The shuttles will return to BWI on Sunday; the trips will not begin until after lunch is over. **PLEASE PLAN YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS ACCORDINGLY.**

The cost of the tour will be \$415 per person, double occupancy, and \$545 per person, single occupancy (non-members add \$25 per person).

Registration forms will be sent with the February newsletter. These long, cold winter nights certainly make us yearn for nice, warm weather to visit our favorite battlefields!