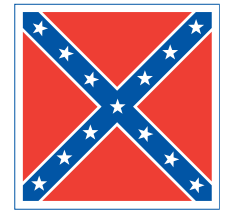


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXV, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 2004



## 635th REGULAR MEETING

DOROTHY KELLY ON  
“A WANT OF CONFIDENCE’:  
THE FAILURE OF LONGSTREET’S  
EAST TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Friday, November 12**

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

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$30 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée:*

*London Broil with*

*Shitake Mushroom Sauce.*

*Catch of the Day or Fruit Plate*

(We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$5 per person.)

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8**, by calling Pepper Zenger at 630-460-1865. We now also have a **new online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Just fill in your name, email address, choice of entree and number of attendees on the easy-to-use form, then click on the “send information” box.

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.

Until the end of the year, parking is at the lot at the corner of Hubbard and Orleans Streets. The hotel is providing shuttle bus service for guests between the lot and the hotel.

*Parking is \$8 with a validated parking sticker. Tickets will be validated by the Round Table treasurer at the meeting.*

## DOROTHY E. KELLY

- on -

### “A Want of Confidence’: The Failure of Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Dorothy E. Kelly

The best comment ever on the contentiousness of Civil War historians was by Lincoln biographer David Donald, who once noted, “There must be more historians of the Civil War than there were generals fighting it, and of the two groups, the historians are the more belligerent.” Confederate General James Longstreet has engaged historians like few other generals, north and south. Was he, as many historians contend, the master of the battlefield, Robert E. Lee’s trusted “Old War Horse”? Or was he, in diarist Mary Chestnut’s words, “a slow old humbug”, whose silent demeanor concealed not profound thinking but an absence of thinking, effective only when under Lee’s immediate command?

Only once during the war did Longstreet command an independent army, in East Tennessee in late 1863. The campaign proved, in Chestnut’s words, “a horrible failure”. This failure of the East Tennessee Campaign and the Confederate repulse at the Battle of Fort Sanders will be the topic of Dorothy Kelly’s November 12th presentation, “A Want of Confidence’: The Failure of Longstreet’s East Tennessee Campaign”.

In dismissing Maj. Gen. Lafayette McLaws from the Army of Northern Virginia’s First Corps in December, 1863, Lt. Gen. James Longstreet charged McLaws with “a want of confidence” throughout the East Tennessee Campaign. After studying the campaign,

however, Dorothy Kelly believes it obvious that the “want of confidence” was Longstreet’s. Delays, procrastinations, and indecision, coupled with Longstreet’s inability to resolve dissension among his subordinates, doomed the campaign to failure.

When asked why the Confederates lost at Gettysburg, General George Pickett joked that, “he thought the Union army had something to do with it”. In contrast to Longstreet’s lackluster performance, Union Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, often criticized for lack of competence, conducted a skillful delaying action drawing Longstreet toward Knoxville and out of supporting distance of Gen. Braxton Bragg’s army at Chattanooga.

A native of Knoxville, Tennessee, “Dot” Kelly is past president, and current board member, of the Knoxville Civil War Round Table. She has authored several articles in North & South Magazine on east Tennessee Civil War history, the most recent on Sanders’ 1863 East Tennessee Raid (December, 2002 issue)

and a biography of Gen. William Price Sanders (February, 2004 issue). She is a founding board member and past president of the Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association. The Governor of Tennessee appointed Dorothy Honorary Tennessee Colonel and aide-de-camp to the governor for her work in preserving East Tennessee Civil War history and sites.



## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

'Civil War Month in Illinois to Focus Attention on Flags' reports *The Civil War News*. The DuPage County Historical Museum (DCHM) in Wheaton held the Inaugural Reception on October 5, and several CWRT of Chicago members did a "show & tell" regarding artifacts from their private collections. (Since private collectors prefer anonymity, we will not list the participants—but our thanks to those folks is loud-and-clear!) The main purpose is to heighten awareness of the conservation needs of Civil War flags carried by Illinois units, and our particular focus is on the 36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. It was a rare treat to have the actual national colors displayed at the Wheaton museum for two days.

If the restoration and preservation monies needed—\$25,000—are raised, there is a good chance that this flag will be on "permanent" loan to the DCHM. On that note, a fine way to contribute to this effort would be to purchase tickets for a drawing on Sunday, November 7, 2004...*please note that winners need not be present. Tickets are a donation of \$5 each, or \$10 for three. Prizes are: 1) A signed and framed Keith Rocco print, "To the Last Round;" 2) Golf and lunch at the historic Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton; 3) Two VIP tickets to the Walker Cup Matches at the Chicago Golf Club, to be held August, 2005; 4) A reprint copy of "History of the Thirty-sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteers." All proceeds from this drawing will benefit the "Save the Flag" project.*

The event on October 5 raised \$1300 toward that goal, so your further participation will be appreciated. For *contributions or drawing tickets*, please call: DCHM Director, Jody Crago, 630-682-6745.

**Two Guns Removed from USS Monitor's Turret** according to *The Civil War News*. We had a real up-close look at the *Monitor* and its turret at our last regular meeting when Rob Zaworski spoke on "Diving to the *Monitor*." The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia is the repository for the artifacts and all other materials related to the *Monitor*. They will also recount the story of the *CSS Virginia*.

The Mariner Museum is conducting a \$10 million private sector campaign to raise funds from corporations and individuals. The *Monitor* Center will open

on March 9, 2007. For more information call 757-591-7738 or visit [www.mariner.org](http://www.mariner.org)

Franklin, Tennessee battlefield preservationists have raised pledges of \$900,000 toward the \$2.5 million goal to match the city's \$2.5 million for buying the golf Country Club of Franklin. Rod and Kay Heller of Washington, DC—Rod is chairman *emeritus* of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT)—had purchased the battlefield land for \$5 million in order to hold it for preservation purchase. The city of Franklin and the Friends of Franklin groups want to increase awareness of Franklin's battlefields as a tourist destination. It is reported that while 200,000 heritage tourists visit Stones River Battlefield in Murfreesboro, only 35,000 come to visit Franklin. Much of Franklin's battlefield is already covered by development.

Jim Lighthizer, President of the CWPT, reports that the purchase of the country club is a real opportunity to reclaim a portion of the historic Franklin battlefield. Unfortunately, a small but vocal group of country club members have claimed that the site is not "hallowed ground." Lighthizer indicates that the truth is that the property was the scene of a historic charge of the Confederate Army of Tennessee on November 30, 1864. Most historians consider their attack across what is now the golf course property to be comparable to Pickett's more famous charge at Gettysburg. In 1993, the Congressionally appointed Civil War Sites Advisory Commission identified the property as "core battlefield land." In reality, without Heller's intervention, the property was to be sold to development of residential housing and would already be a construction site.

In April 2004, the CWPT announced this property as "#1 priority," and committed \$250,000 toward protecting the site. **Their web site is [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org), or call 1-888-606-1400.** The CWRT of Chicago Battlefield Preservation Committee intends to support this effort.

**Pemberton's Headquarters in Vicksburg, Mississippi** has been acquired to provide the Vicksburg National Battlefield Park (VNBP) with the facility it needs to address a legislative mandate. The 1990 mandate charged the VNBP to "interpret the

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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, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact [webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org](mailto:webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org).

campaign and siege of Vicksburg from April 1862 to July 4, 1863, and the history of Vicksburg under Union occupation during the Civil War and Reconstruction." Incorporating the registered National Landmark headquarters into the Park will enable them to fulfill that mandate.

Terry Winschel, Chief Historian of the VNBP, credits the CWPT with enabling them to secure Pemberton's headquarters for the park. Vicksburg is the site of our CWRT's 55th battlefield tour, "The Vicksburg Campaign," **April 27 through May 1, 2005.** We look forward to it...but don't forget to sign-up early so you don't get left behind!

**"Upcoming Rocco print drawing will benefit urgent need of Newtonia, MO battlefield,"** per Mary Abroe's last BP by-line. "Defense of Little Round Top by the 20th Maine, July 2, 1863, was Keith's first limited edition print (1987). It is #163/600, pencil-signed, matted (not framed), with after-market value of \$500. Ruth Klinger donated the print for battlefield preservation and the Committee has designated the time-sensitive project of the Newtonia Battlefield Protection Association to be the recipient of the proceeds. Our Trans-Mississippi Tour in 2002 reviewed the site and enjoyed the hospitality of the Association. The project is to help finance the purchase of the historic Ritchey Mansion, and financing has also come in part from a National Park Service grant.

**Tickets are a donation of \$10 for one and \$20 for three.** Tickets will be available at the November and December regular meetings, and the drawing will be at the December meeting...*winner need not be present.* •

## OCTOBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On Friday, October 15th, Dr. Robert Zaworski gave an interesting speech with additional video narration entitled "Diving to the *Monitor*" before 61 members and guests at the 634th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Zaworski, a plastic surgeon from Atlanta, Georgia, is a Civil War historian and past president of the Atlanta Civil War Round table. His hobby as a scuba diver dovetailed with the inspection of the USS *Monitor*'s wreckage in 1992. The first segment of his excellent presentation dealt with the first battle of ironclads in history—the USS *Monitor* against the CSS *Virginia* at Hampton Roads.

In early 1862 the Confederacy experienced many setbacks. They lost battles at Mill Springs, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Pea Ridge, and Shiloh. In addition, vital cities such as Nashville and New Orleans fell to Union forces. However, Confederate leaders became hopeful with the transformation of the USS *Merrimack* into an ironclad. The *Merrimack*, a large 3500-ton wooden steam frigate in the prewar US Navy, was in drydock in the Norfolk, Virginia, naval yard, undergoing repairs, when the war started. On April 19, 1861, the US navy abandoned Norfolk, and the *Merrimack* was burned to the water level. Confederates rebuilt the *Merrimack* with iron plating on two reconstructed sides, and renamed it the CSS *Virginia*. This ironclad had a short but historic life. As Zaworski explained, "The *Virginia* lasted nine weeks, had nine hours of combat, and three hours of confrontation with the USS *Monitor* to make history".

Swedish-born John Ericsson, a genius for mechanical inventions, was *Monitor*'s inventor. He patented the screw propeller and 200 other inventions in a long career. The *Monitor*, which cost \$275,000, appeared out of drydock in New York City's East River on January 30, 1862. To a casual observer, the only part of the *Monitor* above sea level was its revolving turret. This turret had two Dahlgren cannon which could be rotated to aim at its target. Due to its unique appearance, wags called the *Monitor* "the immense shingle" and "the giant cheesebox".

The *Monitor* was both smaller and

more maneuverable than the *Virginia*. Its length was 172 feet compared to the *Virginia*'s 300, with 57 crewman to the *Virginia*'s 330 and 2 cannon to the *Virginia*'s 10. The *Monitor* weighed 987 tons with a maximum speed of 6 knots an hour, while the weighty, cumbersome *Virginia* could barely make 5 knots. The *Monitor* could carry 100 tons of coal that could last the vessel 8 days. Despite its unconventional design with its deck barely above water level, the ironclad proved very seaworthy.

Zaworski stated, "Norfolk, Virginia, was the only seaport in Virginia and a vital strategic location for the entire Chesapeake Bay area. The navy which controlled the entrance to Chesapeake Bay controlled the Potomac, York, and James Rivers. This entrance was known as Hampton Roads."

On March 8, 1862, the newly-launched *Virginia* steamed out to attack the wooden ships of the Union navy at Hampton Roads. Two vessels—the USS *Cumberland* and the USS *Congress*—were sunk, with a third—USS *Minnesota*—run aground. "The destruction of these wooden warships represented the greatest naval disaster until the Pearl Harbor disaster on December 7, 1941", asserted Zaworski. "Suddenly, at the side of the burning USS *Congress* another ironclad appeared, to the total surprise of the men in the *Virginia*. The *Monitor* challenged the *Virginia* on March 9, 1862. This battle of Hampton Roads was a clear signal signifying the eventual end of the wooden warship."

In the battle the two ironclad touched five times. The *Virginia*, which took 30 minutes to make a turn, momentarily became stuck in the mud. Many cannon balls hit their targets but bounced off the iron plates of each ship inflicting little damage. The *Monitor* was hit 22 times, the *Virginia* 20 times. The battle ended in a tactical draw after 3 hours of heated exchange. Neither ship was damaged extensively.

On May 10, 1862, as General George McClellan's Union army approached Hampton Roads in its advance toward Richmond, the Confederates blew up *Virginia* in order to keep the ironclad from being captured. Only the driveshaft

of the *Virginia* survives to the present day.

The *Monitor* lasted 11 months after launching. In the summer of 1862 the *Monitor*, and other warships, attacked the Confederate fortifications at Drewry's Bluff on the James River near Richmond. Because the *Monitor*'s cannon could not elevate its shot to reach the top of the bluffs, the bombardment failed and the expedition retreated. On December 29, 1862 the *Monitor* left Hampton Roads for Charleston, South Carolina. Near Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on December 31st, the *Monitor* encountered tremendous storms with high waves. Its lack of seaworthiness caused the ironclad to sink, landing upside down in 250 feet of water. The turret, which was not bolted to the hull, detached and landed under the main section of the ironclad.

In 1992 Zaworski, along with several others, scuba-dived down to the *Monitor*'s wreckage. His presentation concluded with a 25-minute video of his dives and the wreckage as it then appeared. The hull and most of the remains were encrusted with marine growth. The structural decay that has occurred prevents the salvage of the intact vessel. At present, the turret, the two Dahlgren cannon, the engine and rudder of the *Monitor* have been raised and taken to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, for restoration and display.



### CONFERENCE ON ILLINOIS HISTORY

The 6th annual "Conference on Illinois History" was held Oct. 28-29, 2004 in Springfield, Illinois. Sponsored by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the conference featured a panel on "Illinois Civil War Round Tables" moderated by Tom Schwarz, CWRT member and State Historian. Presentations were delivered on such Civil War topics as "Lincoln and the Ministers", "Emancipation and Reconstruction", and "Abraham and Mary Lincoln in Memory". Tom, who spoke to our CWRT last March, also gave an update on the progress of the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

## GRAPESHOT



CWRT ex-President Kurt Carlson will be speaking to the South Suburban CWRT on November 18th. The title of his talk is "Backing the Boys". It deals with the development of business and industry in Illinois, and particularly in the Chicago area, during and because of the war, and how businesses and industries supported the war effort.

CWRT President Jerry Kowalski, in his persona as General George H. Thomas, spoke at the Du Page County Historical Museum October 26th on "Reminiscences of the Civil War and the 36th Illinois at Stones River".

There will be a live Civil War era fashion show at the Du Page County Historical Museum Sunday, November 7th, from 1:30 to 3:30.

"The Ten Worst Civil War Generals" will be the topic of CWRT newsletter editor Bruce Allardice's talk before the Blue Island Park District Civil War Roundtable on Tuesday, November 9th. "You've heard of the best, now hear about the rest". The talk will start at 7:00 p.m. at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island.

Visit the CWRT's website at [www.thecwrt.org](http://www.thecwrt.org). It posts the year's schedule of speakers, details on the battlefield tour, and much more.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at [bsallardice1@aol.com](mailto:bsallardice1@aol.com) or (847) 375-8305.

### SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

### SILENT AUCTION

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

### CIVIL WAR ON THE INTERNET

Have a question on the Civil War? The "Civil War Message Board Portal" at [www.history-sites.com](http://www.history-sites.com) may be the place to find the answer. This website hosts message boards and discussion groups focused on specific states, and specific topics such as "Civil War Navies". For example, if you're looking for information about the 113th Illinois Infantry, or how to find out about your ancestor's service in that unit, you can post a query on the "Illinois in the Civil War Message Board". Over 40 published authors frequent these message boards and post answers to your questions.

Longtime Chicago area resident and Civil War buff Frank Crawford, known to many of us, has just come out with a book entitled "Proud to Say I am a Union Soldier: The Last Letters Home From Federal Soldiers Written During the Civil War, 1861-1865". Heritage Books, of Westminster, MD, is the publisher and the cost is \$29.95.

### CORINTH CIVIL WAR CENTER OPENS

Visitors to the Corinth, Mississippi Civil War battlefield will welcome the new Interpretive Center. The 13,000 square foot Center, on Linden St. in Corinth, sits on 22 acres that include Battery Robinett, the site of the fiercest fighting in the battle. This long-needed Center is the culmination of a 15 year effort spearheaded by the Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission and our friends at the Shiloh National Military Park. The Center operates as a unit of the Shiloh NMP.

## 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*.

*November 12:* Dorothy Kelly, "The War in East Tennessee"

*December 10:* Dr. David Zarefsky, "Lincoln, Douglas and Slavery: in the Crucible of Public Debate"

*January 14, 2005:* Terry Winschel, "Stephen D. Lee and the Making of an American Shrine" **Nevens - Freeman Award**

### Presentation

*February 11:* Rev. Bob Miller, "Both Prayed to the Same God--Religion, Faith and the Civil War"

*March 11:* Bruce Allardice, "The Vote To Win the War: The Election of 1864"

*April 8:* To be announced

*May 13:* To be announced

*June 10:* Nat Hughes, The Civil War as seen through the eyes of Robert Stiles, ANV"

### McPHERSON TO SPEAK IN CHICAGO

The Chicago Humanities Festival's Baskes Lecture in History will feature a talk by Pulitzer Prize winning historian James M. McPherson, regarded as one of the foremost Civil War historians in the country and author of numerous books. Professor McPherson's topic will be "The Global Impact of the Civil War". The talk will be at the Harris Music and Dance Hall Theater, 205 East Randolph Drive in downtown Chicago, Sunday, November 7th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are available through the CHF website at [www.chfestival.com](http://www.chfestival.com) or by phone to the CHF ticket office at (312) 494-9509. The tickets cost \$5 each, but are free to CHF members.

### VICKSBURG TOUR UPDATE

2005 Vicksburg Tour Chairman Bob Miller has the tour registration form ready. It will be available for pickup by CWRT members at the November meeting, and will be mailed to members with the December newsletter.