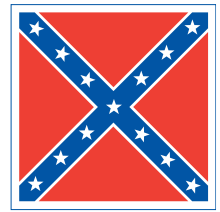


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXIX, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 2009



682nd REGULAR MEETING

Tom Cartwright

on

“Cleburne and Sherman at Missionary Ridge”

★★★★★

Friday, June 12

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Roast Pork Loin.
Catch of the Day, Vegetarian
Plate or Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, June 8 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing chicagocwrtdinner@earthlink.net, with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

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.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$10 with a validated parking sticker.

Tom Cartwright

on

“Cleburne and Sherman at Missionary Ridge”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The Battle of Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863, proved one of the saddest days in the history of the Confederate army. That day the Army of Tennessee, positioned along the seemingly impregnable crest of Missionary Ridge, was attacked and routed by the frontal assault of U. S. Grant’s Union army.

But within that utter defeat lay one bright spot: Pat Cleburne and his division at Tunnel Hill, repulsing repeated Union army attacks and frustrating the Union left wing commander, the soon-to-be-famous General William Tecumseh Sherman.

On June 12th Thomas Cartwright, good friend of this Round Table, will talk about this one successful (Confederate view) or not-so-successful (Union view) action. His talk will focus on how Pat Cleburne’s active and competent leadership not only embarrassed Sherman but helped save the rest of the Army of Tennessee from capture.

Thomas Y. Cartwright was until recently Military Curator & Historian, then Director, at



Tom Cartwright

the Carter House in Franklin, Tennessee. He has appeared on various documentaries for the History Channel, A&E, Travel Channel, CNN, Discovery Channel, and Preservation Channel. For many years has given lectures over most of the United States for Civil War Round Tables, corporations, preservation groups, Heritage groups, and has guided tours of various Tennessee battlefields. Tom has written many

articles and essays, and is currently working on two books, Mascots in the Civil War, and The Battle of Thompson’s Station.

He is currently associated with the Lotz House in Franklin, guiding battlefield tours.



Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Bearss Award Goes to Mill Springs and Camp Wildcat: During the recent CWRT Kentucky/Lincoln tour, Ed Bearss announced his choices as co-winners of the eighth annual Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award: the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and Camp Wildcat Preservation Foundation. Participants in the recent battlefield tour had the opportunity to visit both Mill Springs and Camp Wildcat and to see the work of their two fine support groups firsthand.

As has been the case in recent years, our contributors' generosity—a sign of abiding affection and regard for Ed—again provided us with funding for two awardees. Each received \$1,000 from the Battlefield Preservation Fund of the CWRT of Chicago in recognition of this honor—along with the gratitude of Round Table members and preservationists everywhere for jobs well done.

Legislative Committee Votes “No” on Bill to Block Monocacy Incinerator: The Associated Press reported in early April that a panel of the Maryland senate rejected potential legislation blocking a trash incinerator near Monocacy National Battlefield. Republican Senator Alex Mooney had proposed the bill in an effort to keep Frederick County from constructing a \$527 million incinerator in an industrial park close to Monocacy. The incinerator, when and if built, will burn trash from Frederick and Carroll counties in order to produce electricity and save landfill space.

Senator Mooney's bill, which would have prohibited new, large-scale incinerators within one mile of national parks, was voted down 6-3 by the state senate's Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Senator Webb Requests Full Authorization of Battlefield Preservation Funds: In mid-May, Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) sent a letter asking the chairman and ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee to authorize fully \$10 million in FY2010 monies for the national Civil War Battlefield Preservation program. In a show of

bipartisanship, fifteen fellow senators supported Webb's request. Congress has authorized funding for this program at \$10 million annually since its inception ten years ago, but it actually has been funded at an average of just \$3.6 million over its life span. Still, during that period the program has preserved over 15,300 acres of threatened battlefield land, almost half of them in Virginia.

In the letter to his colleagues, Webb, a vocal proponent of preservation and maintenance of historic sites, wrote the following: “As the nation celebrates the bicentennial of President Lincoln's birth and prepares to commemorate the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, full funding of CWBPP is critical to saving high-priority, threatened Civil War battlefield sites and thus preserving our history for future generations.”

Orange County (VA) Supervisors Say No to Proposed Planning Study at Wilderness: A late April editorial in the Fredericksburg (VA) Free Lance-Star reported that a majority of the Orange County Board of Supervisors had rejected a proposed planning study for the county's eastern gateway, which includes the Wilderness battlefield—a study that would have dealt with economic development and preservation goals. The request for the study was made by the Wilderness Battlefield Coalition, a consortium of local and national preservation organizations, and a local family that is a major landowner in Orange County. The immediate catalyst for the proposed study was Arkansas-based Wal-Mart's plan to build a 138,000-square-foot superstore near the intersection of Routes 3 and 20 on battlefield land that across the street from but not included in the Wilderness component of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. (Only 21% of the Wilderness battlefield is part of the national park.)

Lee Frame, the board's chairman, said in a letter to Jim Campi of the Civil War Preservation Trust that members are not opposed to the aims of a comprehensive planning process, but they do not want to slow down Wal-Mart's pending application for a special-

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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 bsallardice1@earthlink.net.

use permit to build on the parcel of land that the retailer wants. In response to that reasoning, the newspaper's editorialist shot back: “... once the big-box store is planted, others will sprout up, and the chance to ‘plan’ obviated. As a witness, we call to the stand the Salem Church battlefield site—dwarfed now by commercial development and the attendant roads.”

The Orange County Planning Commission heard public comment about the proposed Wal-Mart on Thursday, May 21. Upon the commission's recommendation to the county board of supervisors, the decision on the special-use permit is in the hands of the board which appears to be breaking 3-2 in favor of granting the permit. Wal-Mart CEO Michael Duke and members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors need to reconsider and put this big-box store elsewhere. For more information and links to related Web sites, see the Civil War Preservation Trust's site at www.civilwar.org.

May Meeting

BY TOM TRESMOTT

On May 8, at the 681st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, **Jim Ogden**, Historian at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, spoke to 67 members and guests about a crucial day and place in his purview --- September 20, 1863, on Horseshoe Ridge, and the role there played by the Reserve Corps of the Army of the Cumberland. On the afternoon of that day, the situation on Horseshoe Ridge, also known as Snodgrass Hill, was grim for the Union cause. Braxton Bragg, commanding the Army of Tennessee, has been trying to turn the Union left for two days. Maj. Gen. George Thomas, who had repulsed one Confederate attack there, saw troops coming from the northeast, but, not able to tell if they were Yankees or Rebels, handed his spyglass to an aide, who saw flags but still could not determine: were they friend or foe? Were they the Reserve Corps? Capt. Gilbert Johnson was then ordered to make contact and find out.

The Reserve Corps, intended for pursuit and exploitation, was being used by William Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland (supplied from Louisville by a single track railroad) as a rear area command. The Reserve Corps was three divisions and 16,000 men strong, but having to guard the rear, the regiments were scattered in one's and two's over middle Tennessee, never getting to function as a larger unit, and had less than complete organization in supply and medical facilities. Commanding this corps was Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, a New York native and West Pointer (Class of 1845), who had fought in the Mexican War, earning many brevets, and served with the 3rd U.S. Cavalry.

During this campaign, Granger's less than thoroughly disciplined volunteers grew to despise their West Point-trained commander. When, at the camp at Rossville, guarding Chattanooga, scores of soldiers violated Granger's strict orders against foragers, the corps commander had men from every regiment tied by their thumbs. When officers of the 96th Illinois (Whitaker's Brigade) and 52nd Ohio (McCook's Brigade) demanded the release of their men, and a crowd of protesting soldiers gathered, Granger

orders that artillery open fire with blank cartridges to get them to disperse. The artillerymen refused, and McCook intervened to diffuse the situation. The prisoners were released, the crowd dispersed, but Granger's men hated him even more.

On September 19 Bragg attacked the left flank of Rosecrans' still dispersed army. McCook and Mitchell spend an uneasy night, skirmishing with Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry. Captured Confederate soldiers led McCook to believe there was a Confederate brigade in the area, as the Reserve Corps in Rossville listened to the growing sound of battle to the south.

On the morning of September 20, after a probe east to determine the whereabouts of the Confederates, and leaving McCook's Brigade to guard the road, Granger decided to march south, with Steedman's division, to the sound of the guns in support of Thomas. While all this was happening, roughly one half of the Union line had collapsed under the Confederate attack. Some units had retreated all the way to Missionary Ridge; others had rallied at Horseshoe Ridge. The beleaguered Union troops there desperately needed help, and it was at 1:45 that Thomas sent Capt. Johnson to determine just who the approaching troops were.

It was, in fact, the Reserve Corps, and Steedman's division reached Snodgrass Hill at 2:00. Just as they arrived, however, a new Rebel threat was approaching from the west. The 121st Ohio of Mitchell's Brigade now held the far end of the Union line as Steedman attacked to the southwest, driving the Confederates back.

Confederate sniper fire was also taking its toll, but double canister from Battery M put an end to it. This battery also provided an amusing anecdote from the battle. "Battery", the unit's dog mascot, would charge out from under the number one gun, barking at the attacking Southerners. When, however, he charged too soon after the gun fired, and had his back fur singed, Battery decided to make no further attacks, and spent the

rest of the battle toward the rear with the caissons.

The Yankees on Horseshoe Ridge were running out of ammunition, as the Confederate attacks continued until nightfall. Because of their increasingly tenuous position, Thomas ordered a withdrawal, but most Union regiments on Snodgrass Hill, with or without orders, were already retreating, mostly in good order despite the rout. Some units received the order and some didn't; Granger's demi-brigade, joined by the 21st Ohio, were among the last to fall back in the direction of soon-to-be-besieged Chattanooga, after taking 47% casualties.

Chickamauga was a disaster for the Union. Yet it could have been worse. Thomas' delaying action at Horseshoe Ridge, with the timely arrival and key participation of the Reserve Corps, earned for Thomas his famous moniker ("the Rock of Chickamauga"), and bought time for an orderly withdrawal and eventual rescue of the Army of the Cumberland, --- which, with Thomas in command, would go on to achieve a stellar record in future engagements.

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from **Hal Ardell**, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net



Fall Tour of Springfield!

The CWRT will travel to the Lincoln Museum and Library in Springfield on Saturday, Oct. 17th or Saturday, Oct. 24th, with a return to Chicago the following day. The exact date, further details, and registration forms will be available at our June meeting. After that date, you may download the form from the CWRT website, www.thecwrt.org.

GRAPESHOT



Author **Michael Weeks** will be signing his new book, The Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide, at the Printer's Row Book Fair at noon June 6th and 10 a.m. June 7th.

The 23rd Annual **Deep Delta Civil War Symposium**, June 5-6th in Hammond, LA, will feature presentations by (among others) our own **Marshal Krolick** (on "Brandy Station") and **Larry Hewitt** (on "Port Hudson"). For more information, phone 985 549-2109 or email hips@selu.edu.

The 11th Annual **Military History Conference in Arthur, IL**, will feature presentations by Dr. Ethan Rafuse, Michael J. Kline, Dr. Donald Frazier, and our own **Bruce Allardice** (on "Pemberton at Vicksburg"). The event is Saturday, June 13th. For more information, phone (217) 578-2262.

The **Illinois State Library** has announced the opening of its new database of Civil War photographs, titled "Boys in Blue".

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@earthlink.net or (847) 375-8305.

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Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Upcoming Civil War Events

June 3, Kankakee CWRT: Annual dinner meeting

June 5, Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual Banquet, Tim Smith on "Champion Hill"

June 9, McHenry Co. CWRT: **Jerry Allen**, TBD

June 12, Kenosha Civil War Museum: "Spirit of Freedom" fundraiser, featuring veteran Chicago newscaster Bill Kurtis.

June 19, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet, Donna Daniels does "The Last Years of Mary Todd Lincoln"

June 19: Memorial to Jim Soens at Arlington Cemetery, Elmhurst, starting a 1 p.m.

June 23, Blue Island CWRT: **Larry Hewitt** on "Port Hudson"

June 28, Lake County CWRT: Annual picnic at Van Patton Woods

June 28, McHenry Co. CWRT: ladies event at the Petersen Farm

July 11: The **Battlefield Balladeers** perform at the Wauconda Civil War Days, the largest Civil War reenactment in Illinois

August 22, The Civil War Round Table Symposium in Lisle (see attached flyer)

Douglas Association Meeting

The Stephen A. Douglas Association will have its annual meeting Saturday, June 6, featuring a visit to Douglas's tomb, a luncheon at the Union League Club, and the main talk by Reg Ankrom on "The First Lincoln Douglas Clash of 1836." For more information, contact Dave Richert at drichert@earthlink.net or phone (773) 761-6937.

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*.

June 12: **Thomas Cartwright**, "Cleburne and Sherman at Missionary Ridge"

Aug 22: **CWRT of Chicago's Lincoln Seminar**, at the Lisle Hilton

Sept. 11: **Tom Chaffin**, "H.L. Hunley"

Oct. 9: Nevins-Freeman Address.

Craig Symonds, TBD

Nov. 13: **Patrick Schroeder**, TBD

Dec. 11: **Brooks Davis**, "Lincoln and Davis as War Leaders"

Historian David Donald Dies

David Herbert Donald, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian of the Civil War, died in May at age 88. A professor emeritus at Harvard University, Mr. Donald won Pulitzers for his biographies of abolitionist Charles Sumner and novelist Thomas Wolfe. His 1996 single-volume biography of Lincoln is considered the finest one-volume treatment of our 16th president.

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be 6 p.m., June 5th. Lincoln presenter **George Buss** will field questions from a panel of distinguished journalists in A Roundtable Discussion with Lincoln and the Media. At noon, June 27th, **Sal Cilella** and **James Swan** will be talking on their new Civil War books. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.alincolnbookshop.com.