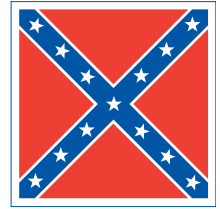


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXXII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 2011



703rd REGULAR MEETING

Bruce Allardice

on

“Civil War Baseball”

★★★★★

Friday, September 9

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$45 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Roast Sirloin.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Sept. 5 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, 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 \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Bruce Allardice on “Civil War Baseball”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Even as early as 1861, baseball (or “base ball,” as it was commonly spelled at the time) claimed to be our country’s national pastime. Amateur teams had organized in most major cities, north and south, and their contests were as avidly reported in the newspapers of the time as they are today. The volunteers brought that passion with them when they entered the army. Civil War soldiers spent more time playing baseball than they did fighting battles. As such, no discussion of the Civil War is complete without examining “America’s game.”

On September 9th Professor Bruce Allardice takes a sometimes serious, sometimes humorous look at the “National Pastime” and how it was played during the war.

A professor of history at South Suburban College, Bruce S. Allardice is past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, and past winner of its Nevins-Freeman Award. A lifelong Chicago area resident and long-suffering White Sox fan, Mr. Allardice has authored or coauthored six books, and numerous articles, on the Civil War. His More Generals in



Bruce Allardice

Gray (LSU Press 1995) was a selection of the History Book Club. He had two books come out in 2008: Confederate Colonels: A Biographical Register (U of MO Press), and Kentuckians in Gray (U Press of KY), co-authored with Professor Larry Hewitt. Bruce’s latest work was an essay on General Stephen D. Lee for Confederate Generals in the Western Theater (U of TN Press 2011). His

article on “The Election of 1862 in Illinois” appeared in 2011 in the Journal of the Illinois Historical Society. Bruce is currently working on editing the di-

ary of a Confederate steamboat officer.

An avid sports historian, Mr. Allardice currently heads up the “Civil War Baseball” subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research (SABR) and is a member of SABR’s Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th Century ballplayers.



Henry V. Boynton and the creation of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP

BY BRIAN SEITER

This spring for the 2012 tour we are visiting Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Parks. One man instrumental in the formation of these parks was a Civil War veteran, newspaper correspondent and battlefield preservationist named Henry V. Boynton.

Henry V. Boynton served in the 35th Ohio and took part in the battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga and was severely wounded at the battle of Missionary Ridge. Years later, he would receive the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, for gallantry at Chattanooga. As a result of his wounds Boynton was incapacitated for a year and had to resign from the army.

Boynton would become a war correspondent with the Cincinnati Gazette and later became the Washington correspondent for the Cincinnati newspaper. For a quarter century Boynton covered politics after the Civil War and was heavily involved in veteran and political societies.

Then in the summer of 1888 Boynton made the change to becoming a battlefield preservationist after his visit to the battlefield with his former brigade commander Ferdinand Van Derveer. Boynton and Van Derveer had the idea to create a Chickamauga Memorial equally marking the lines of both armies. Boynton background as a veteran, writer and researcher made him a leader in the effort to create national parks out of battlefields. Boynton would compile his articles into a book entitled Chattanooga and Chickamauga: Reprint of Gen. H. V. Boynton's Letters to the Cincinnati Commercial

Gazette, August 1888.

Boynton and Van Derveer in 1888 at the annual meeting of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland discussed the idea of the Chickamauga park and a motion to organize a committee to look into the idea. This led to a February 13th, 1889 meeting of Union and Confederate officers and veterans of Chickamauga to discuss plans to memorialize and preserve the battlefield. The group formed a memorial association organizational committee the bi-sectional Chickamauga Memorial Association which met at Chattanooga on the anniversary of the battle, September 19th, 1889. The association told the veterans of the plans to ask Congress for an appropriation to make a park out of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battlefields and to have the states place monuments there. The success of setting up the association was evident the next day on September 20th, the veterans met at Crawfish Springs for a barbeque for 12,000 people. The goal of the association now was to gain congressional approval for the Chickamauga venture.

The bill that Boynton wrote to establish America's first federally preserved battlefield as a park served as a guide for new parks and for today's battlefield preservation efforts. The term national military park was intentionally used by Boynton so that the park was a joint effort between two sides that were now one again.

Boynton's bill through the work of Congressman Charles Grosvenor, Republican from Ohio, veteran colonel of the 18th Ohio, passed the House and Senate by August,

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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.

1890. President Benjamin Harrison signed into law on August 20, 1890 the Chickamauga and Chattanooga Military Park. The grand dedication ceremony took place on the anniversary of the battle, September 18-20, 1895.

The groundbreaking work at Chickamauga and Chattanooga where everything about the park had to be developed from nothing was the first effort of its kind in United States history.

The federal government never before had become involved in preserving a battlefield in its entirety. The manner in which the park was monumented, inclusion of the Confederates and the three main commission governing body were carried on in future park efforts and its influences are felt to this day. Henry V. Boynton was one of America's greatest preservationists and has been described as "the Father of the Chickamauga National Park Enterprise". Please consider going on our roundtable tour to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga battlefields May 3rd to May 6th 2012.

June Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Professor Peter Carmichael presented a lively talk on “Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilation” to the 702nd meeting of The Civil War Round Table on June 10, 2011. In this lecture, Carmichael elucidated on the effect Lee’s personality and generalship had on contemporaries and modern historians. Lee’s biographer, Douglas Southall Freeman, in a 1936 lecture on generalship, said the difference between a great and an average general is that “the great general can determine the difference between what is practical and what is desirable.” Carmichael feels that if Freeman had applied that maxim to Lee, his overall portrait would have been more incisive. Freeman considered Lee’s greatest weakness to be that he was “too much of a gentleman” who deferred too often to subordinates. Carmichael seeks a more complex assessment of Lee’s generalship.

Carmichael’s thesis is that by 1863 Lee continued to wage offensive operations that far exceeded the logistical capabilities of his army. Offensive victories in 1862-63 up to Gettysburg paid huge dividends, but took an extreme toll on his army. He never adjusted his strategic thinking in light of those costly victories. He sought battles of annihilation, complete defeat of the adversary. But Civil War armies were extraordinarily resilient, making this type of victory impossible. Even at Chancellorsville, his tactical masterpiece, where Lee achieved surprise with Jackson’s flank march, he could not deliver the killing blow. Despite this experience and having witnessed Gaines Mills and Fredericksburg, Lee continued to believe he could achieve a climactic victory. Other officers, for

example, Sherman, understood the chimerical nature of that idea.

Criticism of Lee originated with his subordinates. In Fighting for the Confederacy, E. P. Alexander wrote that he originally thought Lee too passive to command the army—some called him the ‘king of spades’ for entrenching before Richmond. But a staff officer corrected this impression, telling him, “if there one man in either army, federal or confederate, who is head and shoulders far above every other in either army in audacity, that man is General Lee, and you will very soon have lived to see it. Lee is audacity personified.”

That complementary remark is now the core of modern scholarship on Lee. But some contemporary historians have taken a critical stance on Lee’s character. Thomas Connolly, in Marble Man, portrayed him consumed with blood lust, unable to resist the urge to fight. Michael Fellman, taking a psychobiographical perspective, theorized that despite his carefully controlled exterior, Lee was given to the offensive in order to satisfy suppressed sexual urges. Carmichael is not convinced of this theory—Lee’s actions were most often predicated on opportunities his opponents presented him—Chancellorsville—or taking advantage of success already achieved—the third day at Gettysburg.

Alan Nolan criticized Lee because his victories did not advance the cause of the Confederacy—his battlefield victories were ultimately detrimental to the south’s strategic goals. But Carmichael feels Nolan fails to consider the context in which Lee operated when he assumed command in 1862. The

Southern people demanded offensive action, which in turn boosted morale. Joseph Harsh also critiqued Nolan, arguing that Lee knew the south’s limited resources could not support a protracted war which would ultimately doom his army and the Confederacy. This is what compelled him to take his army north of the Potomac in 1862 and again in 1863.

The Southern people and press ratcheted down expectations later in the war, considering defensive victories as good as offensive ones. But Lee’s thinking did not match this maturing attitude toward the war. His generalship in the Wilderness encapsulates his rigid concept of annihilation. Not realizing his army’s limits, he expected too much of Ewell on the first day of battle. And he sent Early to the Valley in 1864 with unrealistic expectations for a decisive victory. This backfired—a defensive campaign could have avoided defeat and its consequent impact on the 1864 election. Even during the Petersburg Campaign, Lee did not adapt; he felt he no choice but to drive the union army away from Petersburg.

Carmichael stops short of indicting Lee. Rather he calls for a better appreciation of what Lee confronted as the war progressed so that we can better understand why he hoped for the ultimate battle of annihilation.

To hear the entire talk, there is a recording of the meeting (and every meeting) available from **Hal Ardell**, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net. To view his slide presentations see <http://classic.kodakgallery.com/civilwar/main>.

GRAPESHOT



The Kenosha Civil War Museum will host its 4th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum, Sept. 10th. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the program runs from 9:30 to 3:30. Lunch is included in the registration fee. Speakers include **Bruce Allardice**, speaking on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals." Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

The 16th Annual Decatur Fall Symposium will be held Sept. 24th at the usual location, Yoder's in Arthur, IL. Speakers include **Rob Girardi** on "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign." Call (217) 578-2262 or email cwhist@yahoo.com for more details.

On Sept. 17th **Rob Girardi** will speak on "Illinois Fights the Civil War" at the Wheaton History Museum. The program starts at 6 p.m.

Dave Corbett's Battlefield Balladeers will perform at the Elk Grove Village Historical Society's "Pioneer Days" Sept. 18th, from noon to four.

Leslie Goddard will portray "Clara Barton" at the Blue Island Public Library Sept. 13th, and at the Algonquin Public Library Sept. 14th.

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.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus 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

- Sept. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT: David Powell on "Failure in the Saddle"
- Sept. 7th, Lake County CWRT: Charlie Jarvis on "Bell City Rifles"
- Sept. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Ray Guttendorf on "Allen Pinkerton"
- Sept. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Baseball and the Civil War"
- Sept. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "Crawford's Favorite Confederate"
- Sept. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Rick Benson on "Judah Benjamin"
- Sept. 17th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Living history, featuring the First Michigan Engineers. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Sept. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Anne E. Marshall on "The Lost Cause"
- Sept. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT: Sam Blackwell on "The Journey of Gabriel Durham, 12th IL Cavalry"

Reminder: 2012 Tour
(Chickamauga/Chattanooga)
May 3-6, 2012

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*.

Sept. 9: Bruce Allardice, "Civil War Baseball"

Oct. 14: Nora Titone, "The Bitter Rivalry between Edwin and John Wilkes Booth"

Nov. 11: Gail Stephens on "Early's 1864 Invasion of Maryland"

Dec. 9: James Robertson, "The Untold Civil War"

Jan. 13: Parker Hills, Chickamauga

Feb. 10: Harry Bulkeley, "I Propose to Fight it Out"

Longtime CWRT member **Malcolm Macht** passed away July 21st in Malone, NY. Malcolm helped found the South Suburban CWRT, and was active until recently in the Society for American Baseball Research. There will be a service for him in September in Seattle. Anyone interested in attending should contact his daughter Laura at (206) 669-7400 or email lauramacht@comcast.net.

Robert Johannsen, distinguished professor of history at the U. of IL, passed away Aug. 16th. Bob was the author of the standard biography of Stephen A. Douglas, and had spoken to our CWRT in the past. He will be missed.