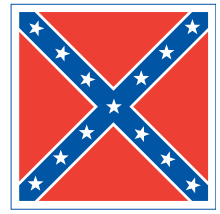


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 2012



713th REGULAR MEETING

Tom Schwartz

on

“A People’s Contest: Lincoln, Soldiers, and the Dilemmas of Democracy”

★★★★★

Friday, September 14

★★★★★

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: Sliced Roast Sirloin.

Baked Salmon

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Sept. 12, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

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 \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Nevins-Freeman Address

Tom Schwartz

on

A People’s Contest: Lincoln, Soldiers, and the Dilemmas of Democracy

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

On September 14th, former Illinois State Historian Thomas Schwartz will accept our Round Table’s Nevins-Freeman Award, following in the distinguished footsteps of past awardees such as Bruce Catton and Ed Bearss. The award in part acknowledges Tom’s contribution in creating the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield. He will talk on the meaning of the war, as expressed by Abraham Lincoln, and as expressed by common soldiers in their letters home.

The first part of the title of the talk is taken from Lincoln’s July 4, 1861 Message to Congress: “This is essentially a People’s Contest. On the side of the Union, it is a struggle for maintaining in the world, that form, and substance of government, whose leading object is, to elevate the condition of men—to lift artificial weights from all shoulders—to clear the paths of laudable pursuit for all—to afford all, an unfettered start, and a fair chance, in the race of life. Yielding to partial, and temporary departures, from ne-



Tom Schwartz

cessity, this is the leading object of the government whose existence we contend.”

Were these lofty, eloquently expressed, goals, shared by the common soldier? Did the common soldier even know of Lincoln’s stated goals? Or did the soldiers have various views of the war, and its goals?

Author of more than one hundred articles, reviews, chapters, and electronic reference entries and author of Lincoln: An Illustrated Life and Legacy (Fall River Press, 2009), Dr. Tom Schwartz is senior editor of the Journal of the Abraham Lincoln



Association and historical advisor for the Journal of Illinois History. He has appeared on the Today Show, C-SPAN, the History Channel, the Voice of America, NPR, and the BBC. He currently works as director of the Hoover Presidential Library. Dr. Schwartz attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he received the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. in history and international relations.

Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Special 150th Activities for Maryland Campaign

By Scott C. Boyd

Washington, D.C. — The National Park Service and partners from Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland are joining to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Maryland Campaign and the September 17, 1862, Battle of Antietam with special events and programs including guided tours, weapons and living history demonstrations, speakers and commemorative programs.

In the summer of 1862, General Robert E. Lee led his Army of Northern Virginia across the Potomac River into Maryland, hoping to shift the fighting north of Virginia and force Major General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac into a showdown to gain recognition for Southern independence.

The armies engaged at Manassas, South Mountain and Harpers Ferry, where the Union garrison surrendered to General Thomas J. Jackson. By the evening of September 16th, McClellan had moved a portion of his army across Antietam Creek, cutting off Lee's advance route.

Lee's options were to fight or retreat back to Virginia. He chose to fight, even though some of Jackson's wing remained at Harpers Ferry.

The Battle of Antietam began at dawn on September 17th with a series of uncoordinated Union advances around a cornfield situated along the Hagerstown Pike, North Woods, West Woods and moved toward a sunken road as the Confederates fought each thrust with a counter-attack.

Fighting shifted southward as Union General Ambrose Burnside captured a bridge that now bears his name. Confederate General A.P. Hill's late arrival from Harpers Ferry added final resistance to the Union drive and allowed the Confederates to hold their ground.

After twelve hours of fighting, neither side could claim victory. They had suffered 23,110 casualties—the bloodiest single day in American history.

On September 18th both sides began the work of caring for the wounded, gathering the dead and that night, Lee withdrew across the Potomac ending his first invasion into the North. A rearguard action was fought September 19th–20th at the Potomac River ford near Shepherdstown. It was the Maryland Campaign's last action as Lee's army continued on to the Shenandoah Valley.

The Maryland Campaign resulted in a Union victory that denied the Confederate States needed European recognition and aid and allowed Abraham Lincoln to issue the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation, which shifted the war's purpose toward both the preservation of the Union and the abolishment of slavery.

Maryland Campaign events include the following: Sept. 4, premiere of "Heart of the Civil War" documentary, 7:30 p.m. at the Weinberg Center for the Arts, Frederick.

Sept. 8, Maryland Campaign Sesquicentennial Lecture by John Schildt, 7p.m, Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ, Frederick.

Sept.13-15, Battle of Harpers Ferry 150th Anniversary tours, talks, demonstrations at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Sept. 15-17, Battle of Antietam/Sharpsburg 150th Anniversary hikes, daily speakers, evening lectures, including Ed Bearss, James McPherson, James I. Robertson Jr., remembrance ceremony, at Antietam National Battlefield.

Sept. 19, Battle of Shepherdstown 150th Anniversary Maryland Campaign Sesquicentennial Lecture by Thomas McGrath, 7 p.m., Antietam National Battlefield.

Sept. 22, 150th Anniversary of the Issuance of the Preliminary

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www.chicagocwrt.org

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.

Emancipation Proclamation Commemorative Program, 2 p.m., Antietam National Battlefield.

For information about the National Park Service's Civil War 150th anniversary events, programs and activities, go to www.nps.gov/marylandcampaign.gov and www.nps.gov/civilwar/civilwar150.thm.

Save Historic Antietam Foundation will have on 9-8-12 a special lecture series in honor of the 150th anniversary of the battle of Antietam. The lectures will take place at the Mumma Farm barn. The speakers will be Daniel Vermilya, Susan Rosenwald, Dennis Frye, Dr. Mark Snell and Tim Rowland. The address for donations is SHAF, PO Box 550, Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782 or check the website at www.shaf.org.

The Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (SBPA) is a non-profit organization, dedicated to preserving the site of the battle at Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The battle fought on September 19th and 20th brought an end to Maryland Campaign. The address for donations is SBPA, PO Box 3359, Shepherdstown, WV 25443 or check the website at battleofshepherdstown.org.

From August *Civil War News*, SHAF.org and Battleofshepherdstown.org

June Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Dennis Frye addressed the 712th meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago on the “September Suspense” which attended the campaigns of that eventful month in 1862. On September 11th of that year, a delegation of ministers from Chicago arrived in Washington D.C. demanding that President Lincoln issue an immediate emancipation proclamation. Lincoln did not meet with the churchmen as he had a problem on his hands—General Lee’s army had crossed the Potomac and was nearing the Mason-Dixon Line. Lincoln took action to stop this invasion by appointing his political antagonist, George McClellan, to lead the Army of the Potomac and to protect the capital and Baltimore. On September 11th, McClellan wired Lincoln that the latter city was safe. That same day the administration received news that Lee was moving into Pennsylvania and also on Harper’s Ferry.

On September 11th, Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, desperate that Lee was bound for Harrisburg or Philadelphia, exhorted the President to send an army of 80,000 to his state’s defense. There was concern that the confederates would retaliate for the actions of John Pope earlier in the summer when that general began to enforce the Second Confiscation Act by expropriating property, including slaves. Northerners were fearful that the war would

now be directed toward civilians as Pope had done in Virginia. Curtin recognized that his state would now become the scene of war.

As matters transpired, the panic in Pennsylvania was premature: McClellan repelled the invasion. But historians tend to “freeze” events in time; for the Antietam Campaign, events are ‘frozen’ on September 17th. Frye maintained that history is better appreciated by focusing on events preceding a cataclysmic event. Prior to Antietam, in Kentucky, Bragg threatened Louisville and Kirby Smith, Cincinnati, and a union army had been expelled from West Virginia. Thus two of the three states which contributed the most men to the cause, Pennsylvania and Ohio, were under assault with a large proportion of their young men elsewhere. Motivated by fear for their families and homes, 75,000 militia gathered at Harrisburg; almost 50,000 volunteers gathered at Cincinnati.

Frye argued that combination of events in Maryland and Kentucky in September 1862 brought the confederacy as close as it would ever come to independence. Confederate ‘Peace Terms’ were offered up and printed in northern newspapers on September 11th. These extolled recent southern victories as having “...aroused a feeling for peace which is beginning to find public expres-

sion in northern cities. We have no doubt that thousands in the north who heretofore silently submitted to the popular cry will now speak out and demand peace since all their armies have been defeated and no force intervenes between our victorious armies and northern cities.... Nothing but a speedy terms of peace will prevent invasion of northern territory and protection of the enemy’s homes from the same kind of warfare that has been practiced on our homes in the south. When the fact of this invasion is forceably presented to the northern mind, our terms of peace will be accepted.”

As of September 1862, the south was confident it was going to win the war, although the odds did not favor this outcome. The cause had momentum, and diplomatic recognition was believed to be on the horizon.

Not knowing the operations of the armies or of events that would unfold on the Antietam battlefield and elsewhere, people in the north felt apprehension, fear and uncertainty, just as we did on our own September 11th. By relying on his research of contemporary newspapers, Dennis prompts us to view history as did the participants who could not know the results of the momentous events they were about to face. We look forward to next May when we will hear more from this great presenter and interpreter of our nation’s history.

GRAPESHOT



On Sept. 8th, the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will host an Antietam-themed “Fifth Annual Civil War Forum.” The speakers include our own **Dr. Mary Abroe** on “Saving Antietam,” **Dr. Leslie Goddard** as “Clara Barton,” **Dr. Gordon Dammann** on “Union Field Hospitals at Antietam,” and Stephen Recker presenting “Rare Images of Antietam.” Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

On Sept. 1st–2nd, the **Graue Mill** in Oakbrook will host a “Civil War Encampment”. On Sept. 28th–29th, the Graue Mill will present a “Journey on the Underground Railroad.”

Former CWRT President **Bruce Alardice** will speak on “The Civil War in the South Suburbs” Sept. 8th, to the South Suburban Genealogical & Historical Society, at the Lansing Public Library.

On Sept. 24th, a mock trial, “The Insanity Re-Trial of Mary Lincoln,” will be presented in Chicago by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. For more details visit <http://www.wasmarylincolncrazy.com/retrial.html>.

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

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

Aug. 23rd, South Suburban CWRT: **Leslie Goddard** as “Mary Chesnut”

Sept. 5th, Lake County CWRT: Joan Wilts on “Civil War Campfire Stories”

Sept. 5th, Kankakee CWRT: Harold Knudsen on “General James Longstreet”

Sept. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Frank Crawford on “The Shenandoah Valley”

Sept. 8th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Fifth Annual Civil War Forum”
Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

Sept. 11th, McHenry County CWRT: “Membership Favored Civil War Artifacts”

Sept. 15th, DuPage County Fairgrounds: “National Civil War Collectors Show”

Sept. 16th, Oak Lawn Library: “Battlefield Balladeers”

Sept. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Stuart Sanders on “Perryville Under Fire”

Sept. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: George Levy on “Camp Douglas”

Sept. 27th, South Suburban CWRT: Rachel Gilmore on “General Sherman’s Horse”

Sept. 28th, Union League Club: James McPherson luncheon

2013 Tour – Antietam, May 1–5

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*.

Oct. 12: Edward Bonekemper, “Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War”

Nov. 9: Tom Clemens, “Antietam”

Dec. 14: Dale Phillips, “The Red River Campaign”

Jan. 11, 2013: David Powell, “Confederate Cavalry at Chickamauga”

Feb. 8: Mary Abroe, “Charles Grosvenor, Colonel 18th Ohio”

March 8: Leslie Goddard, “Mary Chesnut”

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be September 27th, with **James McPherson** talking about his new book, *War on the Waters*. Visit www.virtualbooksigning.net for more details.

We have a sad announcement: **Pepper Zenger**, onetime CWRT board member, and wife of Past CWRT President Bill Sullivan, passed away June 25th.

A new Abraham Lincoln online discussion group has been formed. The url is <http://rogerjnorton.com/Lincoln-DiscussionSymposium/index.php>.



MAY 1-5, 2013
63RD ANNUAL BATTLEFIELD TOUR



The Antietam Campaign – South Mountain, Harpers Ferry, Sharpsburg, Shepherdstown

Wednesday May 1, 2013

Arrive in Hagerstown, Maryland. Fly from Chicago to Baltimore*

Base Hotel: Clarion Hotel, Hagerstown located on 910 Dual Highway, Hagerstown, MD 21740, 301.797-2004. www.hagerhall.com

Hotel has complimentary breakfast. Wednesday Dinner is on your own.

Ed Bearss and Dennis Frye will be our tour leaders.

Thursday through Sunday – Buses will load at 7:30 a.m. and depart promptly at 8:00 a.m.

Thursday May 2, 2013

South Mountain – On September 14, 1862 elements of The Army of Northern Virginia and contingents of The Army of the Potomac fought a day long battle for the mountain gaps. Tour will make stops at Burkittsville, Crampton's Gap, Fox's Gap, and Turner's Gap.

Harpers Ferry – Stonewall Jackson laid siege to the garrison which surrendered just in time for his wing of the army to march to Sharpsburg to aid Lee. Harpers Ferry Visitor Center, Bolivar Heights, School House Ridge, Chambers Farm.

Lunch at The Old South Mountain Inn. Dinner at Base Hotel, cash bar.

Friday May 3, 2013

The Battle of Antietam. Overview of Union and Confederate strategy, Antietam Visitor Center, The North Woods, The Cornfield, West Woods, Dunker Church, Bloody Lane, Mumma/Roulette Farms.

Lunch at the Red Byrd, Keedysville. Dinner at Base Hotel, cash bar.

Saturday May 4, 2013

The Battle of Antietam. Pry House, Civil War Medicine. Antietam Visitor Center, Burnside Bridge, The Final Attack, National Cemetery.

Lunch at Bavarian Inn, Shepherdstown. Fun Night at Mumma Barn on Antietam Battlefield.

Sunday May 5, 2013

Shepherdstown. Ferry Hill Place – overview of Confederate retreat, Blackford's Ford, 118th Pennsylvania Field, Cement Mill/Blackford's Ford.

Box Lunch at Base Hotel, 1:00 p.m. Do not plan you return flight before 4:00 p.m.*

*(Arrangements for airport shuttle are under consideration; at this time, travel to and from Base Hotel is on your own.) Itinerary is subject to change. Cost will be comparable to current tours. Advanced subscription to guarantee a place on the tour is **STRONGLY** recommended, as this is a TWO Bus tour. You can secure your place on the tour for a \$100.00 deposit received before January 1, 2013. *To get your free t-shirt, you must include your size!*

(over)

MORE SEPTEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Camp Douglas News!

At the end of June a team of archaeologists and volunteers conducted an archaeological dig at the sight of the famous—or notorious, depending on your point of view—Camp Douglas POW Camp on Chicago's south side. Evidence suggests they uncovered the foundations of the camps headquarters building. For a Tribune article on the dig, see

http://www.chicagotribune.com/search_results/?q=Camp+Douglas

Ceremony at Lyonsville Cemetery

At 2 p.m. Sept. 8, a public ceremony is planned to honor the memory of the soldiers buried in Lyonsville Cemetery in Indian Head Park. The Sons of Union Veterans have been active in locating the graves of the Union army soldiers buried there. The ceremony will have Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln impersonators, re-enactors, and a cannon salute. For more information, visit <http://www.il66assoc.org>.

Decatur CWRT Annual Symposium

On Sept. 8th, the Decatur CWRT will host its “17th Annual Fall Symposium.” Speakers include the CWRT's old friend Dale Phillips (on “The Fall of New Orleans”), Dan Lee (on “The L&N Railroad”), Dr. Richard McCaslin (on “Rip Ford”), and William C. Winter (on “The 1st Missouri Infantry”). Contact Bruce Gregory at (217) 578-2262, or email him at cwhist@yahoo.com, for more details

“Assassins” at the Viaduct!

The Viaduct Theater will be hosting Stephen Sondheim's musical ASSASSINS. It features presidential assassins from John Wilkes Booth to Squeaky Frohm. It opens in October for a limited run. They will offer a discount on their tickets at their web site (\$10 off) for any performance, using the code: “americancousin”. Here is the site to see what is coming: <http://assassins-chicago.com/>

Chicago Civil War Cemetery Tour

The DuPage County Historical Museum is planning a cemetery tour of Rosehill, Graceland and Oakwoods, guided by the SUV's Jerry Feinstein. The date is October 14th, cost (including bus and lunch) is \$45. Visit www.dupagemuseum.org for more information.