



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 2012



714th REGULAR MEETING

Edward Bonekemper
on

“Lincoln and Grant:
The Westerners Who Won
the War”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, October 12

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Chicken Aegean.

Baked Tilapia.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 10, 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.

Edward Bonekemper on “Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

One of the great, yet overlooked, partnerships in American history was that between Commander-in-chief Abraham Lincoln and General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant. These two adopted Illinoisans, who'd never even met prior to 1864, worked together to revitalize the Union's war effort and pave the way to ultimate victory.

On October 12th historian **Ed Bonekemper** will explore the men's shared personal traits that let to greatness: decisiveness, humility, clarity of communication, moral courage, and perseverance. These

two Illinoisans not only won the Civil War, but set the best possible precedent for civilian/military relationships in America's wars. As the war evolved and Grant proved to be the Union's most successful leader, Lincoln and Grant developed mutual respect and then mutual loyalty for each other. Lincoln protected his best general from charges of drunkenness and butchery, while



Edward Bonekemper

Grant reciprocated by enthusiastically implementing the President's political and military policies, including Emancipation and the use of Black soldiers.

Edward H. Bonekemper, III earned a M.A. in history at Old Dominion University, and graduated from Yale Law School. He has authored numerous books on the Civil War, including Grant and Lee: Victo-

rious American and Vanquished Virginian, McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse,

and A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius (Regnery Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C., 2004). His latest book, Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War, is the subject of his October 12th Chicago talk. Ed's taught courses in U.S. Military history, the American Civil War, and World War II at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

The Birth of the Modern Battlefield Preservation Movement

By Bob Zeller

Twenty five years ago this summer, a group of concerned historians gathered informally to discuss the rapid destruction of Civil War battlefields in Northern Virginia. Eventually, they would come to call themselves the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), a group that has evolved into the modern Civil War Trust. In recognition of this anniversary, the Trust is working with historian Bob Zeller, president of the Center for Civil War Photography, to record the oral history of the early battlefield preservation movement. A portion of this research is excerpted below:

Of the countless threats, the one that finally spurred the Civil War community to action, on a national level, was the desecration of the battlefield at Chantilly, Va, in the mid-1980s. For more than a century after the battle that was fought there in pouring rain, the Chantilly/Ox Hill Battlefield remained very much a part of the heritage of Fairfax County. In 1962, the county itself sponsored the centennial commemorative events at the battlefield. The sense of heritage that burned brightly in the 1960s disappeared in the 1970s and 1980s in the bright gleam of the almighty dollar. Fairfax County was exploding with growth, and nearly every acre of undeveloped land, including the old battlefield, was up for grabs. ...

Down in Petersburg, Va., the controversy touched something deep in Donald Pfanz, then a supervisory historian at the City

Point Unit of Petersburg National Battlefield. On a research trip to Fredericksburg in April 1987, Pfanz made a point of speaking to Robert K. Krick, his former boss, the now-retired Fredericksburg National Military Park chief historian. Pfanz decried the Chantilly tragedy and said something had to be done on a national level to prevent this sort of thing happening again. Krick was dubious of the prospects of a successful national preservation organization, but suggested that Pfanz write [historian Brian] Pohanka and explore the idea with him. ...

Pohanka, meanwhile, had also come away from the Chantilly episode convinced that "something had to be done, on a national scale, to prevent such a travesty from happening in the future," he wrote in a 2004 letter to current Trust president Jim Lighthizer, a year before his death. Pohanka said he and Pfanz "both agreed that a meeting ought to be held of concerned individuals with a view to forming a Civil War preservation organization."

Pfanz's letter led to just such a meeting of concerned Civil War enthusiasts in July 1987 in a dimly lit but full banquet room at Arbuckle's Restaurant on Sophia Street in Fredericksburg, overlooking the Rappahannock River. Out of that meeting came the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites--the first national organization dedicated to saving and protecting Civil War battlefields. It took a year and a half before this grassroots group of volunteers had its first save, and that was donated land. But it was a start. ...

By the end of 1991, in less than five years as an organization, the

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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.

APCWS had saved 467.2 acres at nine sites at a cost of \$ 478,834. Looking back through the lens of history, it was the tip of the iceberg-for saving land and for new threats as well. But for the efforts begun by the APCWS in 1987, there is little doubt that the rolling fields of many other battlefields would look the same as Ox Hill/ Chantilly- a sea of dwellings, strip malls and fast food restaurants. But the initiative to preserve Civil War battlefields, which became largely overlooked or forgotten in the years after the Civil War Centennial, was revived in the years leading up to the sesquicentennial in a way unimagined by any of the founders of the modern Civil War battlefield preservation movement.

"No one envisioned that many thousands and thousands of acres would be saved and millions of dollars (spent) on the scale that has come about," reflected noted historian and early APCWS president Gary Gallagher. "That was absolutely beyond what anyone would have imagined." ...

From Civil War Trust, Hallowed Ground, Summer 2012

September Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Former Illinois State Historian Tom Schwartz delivered the Nevins-Freeman Address “A People’s Contest: Lincoln, Soldiers, and the Dilemmas of Democracy,” at the 713th meeting of The Civil War Round Table on September 14, 2012. The theme of the address was how both president and soldiers confronted the meaning of the war. Schwartz postulated that while the general public conceives that an individual can influence and represent the major themes and events of the time, the academy world is less inclined to view the individual of any importance, but sees groups, power relationships, and social and cultural forces as far more significant.

Regardless, Lincoln is seen as a great leader and an eloquent expositor of self-government. He understood the threat of secession and once war began why peace was not sufficient unless connected with the justice that came with the end of slavery. His public utterances applied to immediate political needs, but often contain the core values he believed comprised the essence of the American republic. His prose, with its strong cadence, lean lines, forceful words, flawless logic, and deliberate meanings, make it unsurprising that Lincoln remains as accessible to modern audiences as he was to contemporary ones.

As Lincoln supplied public utterances in support of the nation’s

survival, soldiers needed to ensure their own survival. Soldiers were highly literate—more than 80% of confederate soldiers could read and write; while union soldier literacy exceeded 90%—and their letters not subject to censorship, which freed them to express their feelings and war experiences. These run the gamut from vivid descriptions of camp life and the horrors of battle as well as unsanitary camp conditions and details of picket duty.

But soldiers wrote also about the larger issues the war presented. As the war progressed, soldiers were exposed to the sights of slavery, and both embraced and criticized the Emancipation Proclamation and the use of black troops. Thomas F. Miller of the 29th Illinois wrote home that “this emancipation bill of old Abraham has caused in some parts of the army considerable disturbance and is called the ‘The Lincoln Negro Proclamation.’” Miller’s concern with emancipation was limited to the extent it might bring an early end to the war. Alfonso Bartow’s view evolved from indifference to slavery to avid support for its eradication.

The carnage of the war made it inevitable that soldiers’ thoughts would tend toward the rationale for expending so much blood and treasure. Johnny Craig of the 10th Illinois Infantry expressed the idea that the war was being fought to

“wipe away the dark blot of human bondage and to place the nation on a firmer basis of Christian and republican principles than ever before.”

Like Lincoln, soldiers came to understand the transcendent nature of the war. Lincoln spoke of the perpetual nature of the union he felt was implicit in the Constitution, and of the “mystic chords of memory” which bound all sections of the nation in a common destiny. Soldiers echoed this view. The Sullivan Ballou letter is in part a poignant love letter but also a complex composition dealing with love of country and union and the “debt we owe those who went before us.”

In their letters, soldiers tried to sort out the meaning of what they experienced, with perhaps limited success, in Schwartz’s view. A diverse body of individuals with equally diverse views, some thought Lincoln’s policies of union and emancipation best preserved the American example for the world, while others saw Lincoln’s election as having split the nation and decried war profiteers. But Schwartz provided evidence that the common soldier was aware of and largely supported Lincoln’s premise of a “peoples’ contest” whose purpose was to sustain a form of government “whose leading object is to elevate the condition of men” and to offer all “a fair chance” in life.

GRAPESHOT



On Oct. 11th **Rob Girardi** will present “The Little Giant and the Big War” at the Illinois History Conference in Springfield.

Larry Hewitt will be speaking on “Profiles in History: Leaders of the Confederate South” at the Southern Festival of Books in Nashville, TN Oct. 13th.

On Oct. 14th the DuPage History Center is sponsoring a Chicago area Civil War cemetery tour. Our friend Jerry Feinstein will be tour guide. For more information, phone (630) 510-4941 or visit www.dupagemuseum.org.

On Oct. 9th at the Blue Island Public Library, **Bruce Allardice** and **Wayne Wolf** will talk on “Charles F. Gunther.” The talk is based on their forthcoming book on Gunther’s Civil War diary. Gunther later became a millionaire candy manufacturer who purchased much of what is today the Chicago History Museum’s collection of artifacts.

Jonathan Sebastian will be speaking on “Vicksburg” Oct. 23rd at the Ernest Hemingway Museum.

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

- Oct. 2nd, River Forest Library: **Rob Girardi** on “Exploring the Civil War”
- Oct. 3rd, Lake County CWRT: David Noe on “Pony Express”
- Oct. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Art Schumacher on “Civil War Atrocities”
- Oct. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Leslie Goddard** as “Mary Chesnut”
- Oct. 6th, First Division Museum at Cantigny: 15th Annual Civil War Symposium. See the flyer or print the registration form from our website.
- Oct. 6th, Eisenhower Library in Harwood Heights: Civil War Book Discussion
- Oct. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: Fred Reckowicz on “Gen. Braxton Bragg”
- Oct. 12th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: James Heinz on “Our Only Hope was to Fight Our Way Out.” Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Oct. 10th-11th, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Annual Conference in Springfield
- Oct. 11th-Nov. 15th, Newberry Library seminar on “Tumult and Transition in North America: Canada, Mexico, and the United States, 1857-1867”
- Oct. 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Edward Bonekemper on “Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War”
- Oct. 12th, **Chicago** CWRT: Edward Bonekemper on “Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the War”
- Oct. 13th, Ridge Historical Society/Mechlin DAR: **Bruce Allardice** on “The Ten Worst Civil War Generals”
- Oct. 13th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: **Rob Girardi** on “The Art of History: Working with Keith Rocco”
- Oct. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: **Bjorn Skaptasan** on “The Battles of Corinth and Davis Bridge”
- Oct. 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Jan Rasmussen** on “Civil War Mascots”
- Oct. 19th, Union League Club CWRT: Guy Fraker reception
- Oct. 20th, Barnes & Noble in Cherry Vale Mall, Rockford: **Rob Girardi** book signing
- Oct. 20th-21st, Dollinger Farm near Joliet: “Civil War Days Reenactment”

Bulletin Board



- Oct. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Nora Titone on “The Booth Brothers”
- Oct. 27th, Calumet Region Militaria Show, Crown Point, IN
- Nov. 1st, Indian Trail Library in Wheeling: Bob Stoller on “Fredericksburg”
- 2013 Tour – Antietam, May 1-5

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.*

- 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”
- April 12: John Fitzpatrick, ““There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”
- May 10: Ethan Rafuse, “Lee and Gettysburg”

Bjorn Skaptasan of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be October 5th at 6 p.m., with **Richard Slotkin** talking about his new book, [The Long Road to Antietam](#). On Oct. 20th at noon, **Guy Fraker** will talk on his new book, [Lincoln’s Ladder to the Presidency](#), and **Lance Herdegen** will talk on [The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory](#). Visit www.virtualbook-signing.net for more details.

Mary Abroe, Leslie Goddard and Gordon Dammann were interviewed by Stephanie Lecci about their presentations at the Kenosha Civil War Museum on Sept. 8th. The interviews were featured on Milwaukee Public Radio’s (WUWM’s) “Lake Effect” on Sept. 17h.



OCTOBER IN THE CIVIL WAR



1861

- 1st** The Federal War Department created the Department of New England under command of Maj. Gen. 'Benjamin Butler, which was mainly a mechanism for recruiting troops to be used in future expeditions; in this case it turned out to be the New Orleans campaign force.
- 2nd** The Confederate government made a peace treaty with the Great Osage Indian tribe. In Alabama, Gov. A.B. Moore issued a proclamation against tradesmen charging exorbitant prices for necessities of life.
- 4th** The Confederate government signed treaties with the Shawnee and Seneca Indians. In Washington, Abraham Lincoln watched an ascent by one of Thaddeus Lowe's balloons. The President later appointed him Chief of Army Aeronautics with the pay of a Federal colonel. Until Joseph Hooker drastically reduced the balloon corps in the spring of 1863, Lowe and his crews made a number of successful ascents to observe Confederate troop movements, direct artillery fire and draw topographical maps.

1862

- 4th** In Washington, the War Department published General Orders, No. 152, which prohibited officers from publishing official letters or reports. Should they show "any copy of such document to... persons not authorized to receive it," their name would be submitted to the President of the United States for dismissal. It was under this order that U.S. Grant was able to get rid of John McClelland in June 1863.
- 8th** In Kentucky, the Battle of Perryville or Chaplin Hills was fought. It was the only major battle fought in the state.
- 24th** In Washington, the War Department reestablishes the Department of the Cumberland, replacing Don Carlos Buell with William Rosecrans and renaming Buell's Army of the Ohio the Army of the Cumberland.

1863

- 6th** From Richmond, Jefferson Davis left on a trip to visit the Army of Tennessee that had laid siege to Chattanooga.

1864

- 13th** Maryland voters adopted a new state constitution which included abolition of slavery. The vote was very close: 30,174 for and 29,799 opposed, a majority of only 375. John S. Mosby and his rangers took up a section of the Baltimore & Ohio tracks near Kearneysville, west of Harper's Ferry. They wrecked a passenger train, seized \$173,000, largely from two army paymasters, and then burned the train.
- 15th** In Washington funeral services were held for Chief Justice Taney with the President in attendance. Taney had died in Washington, on Oct 12th.
- 19th** In far-off Vermont, about a dozen Confederate agents from Toronto robbed the three local banks in St. Albans. They stole about \$175,000 in gold, securities and cash.
- 24th** In Missouri, the last major engagement west of the Mississippi was fought south of Kansas City at Westport. The battle put an end to Price's Missouri Raid. Union forces total approximately 20,000 while Confederates mustered approximately 12,000 but, with almost one third unarmed. Losses are not known for certain but several sources estimate them at 1,500 on each side.

(over)

Fischer Farm Heritage Day

On Saturday, October 13th Fischer Farm in Bensenville will hold their annual "Heritage Day." Several members of the Fischer family served in the Union army.

100th Illinois Flag Restoration

Civil War re-enactor, historian, and living history presenter Bob Kuzma has initiated a campaign to restore the flag once belonging to the 100th Illinois Infantry. This regiment was raised in Will County and south Cook County and is thought to be Joliet's own regiment. Once the flag becomes stabilized and restored, the Joliet Area Historical Museum will display it.

1951 CWRT Photo

Who are these people? The newsletter editor recently was sent a photo of the CWRT's battlefield tour of Franklin, TN in 1951. Research suggests the speaker is Captain Tom Henderson, and the young man is Peter Minton. On the trip were such luminaries as Allan Nevins, Stanley Horn and Pete Long. Can anyone name the people in the photo? The photo is Courtesy of the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

