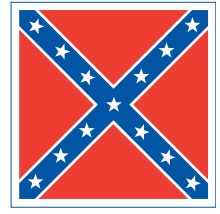


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 2013



720th REGULAR MEETING

John Fitzpatrick

on

“President Lincoln at Gettysburg”

★★★★★

Friday, April 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 Heartland,

Baked Halibut,

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, April 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.

John Fitzpatrick

on

“There is no fail here.”

President Lincoln at Gettysburg

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Following the Battle of Gettysburg, reburial of Union soldiers at the new national cemetery began on October 17. The committee for the November 19th consecration of the cemetery invited President Lincoln to deliver “a few appropriate remarks,” to follow the main speech by noted orator Edward Everett. Pursuant to that invitation, President Lincoln crafted a brief masterpiece known to almost every American as the “Gettysburg Address.”

On April 13, John Fitzpatrick will address the CWRT on “ ‘There is no fail here.’ President Lincoln at Gettysburg.” John’s presentation will help us to gain a greater appreciation and understanding of the immortal Gettysburg Address in the context of the pivotal Battle of Gettysburg and the enormous personal, political and policy pressures on President Lincoln when he prepared and delivered it. John’s Lincoln is not the master of events, but rather the careworn, concerned and conflicted Lincoln, in the midst of the American Civil War with no end in sight, who was not chosen as the keynote speaker, and who had little time to prepare and deliver his short, two-minute speech.



John Fitzpatrick

Gettysburg Licensed Battlefield Guide John J. Fitzpatrick’s interest in Gettysburg began in centennial year of 1963 when he arranged a trip to the Battlefield for the Villanova University Student History Club. That sparked a continuing interest in the American Civil War. He is now entering upon his ninth year of Guiding at Gettysburg.

His professional career began in 1966 as a United States Marine Corps Officer, Tank Platoon Commander, then Pilot. He served a combat tour of duty in Vietnam completing 140 missions in the A6 Intruder for which he was awarded 9 Air Medals and Vietnam Service Awards. Captain Fitzpatrick was Honorably Discharged from Active Duty in 1971 whereupon he entered law school. Upon graduation in 1974 he began a 32 year career as Corporate Counsel for Gulf Oil and Chevron Corporation retiring in 2006. He is a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

John has spoken to Civil War Round Tables and historical societies throughout the nation.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Latest Franklin Land Purchase Will Permit Battlefield Park

by Gregory L. Wade
(April 2013 Civil War News)

FRANKLIN, TN — A strip center and pizza store will soon be torn down and removed from ground zero of the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin, thanks to local and national efforts to reclaim Franklin's battleground.

"This is the only time in American history land has been reclaimed to this extent," said Civil War Trust President James Lighthizer at the announcement celebration. "To take land already built upon back to its battlefield state is unprecedented."

Local preservation coalition Franklin's Charge (FC), in partnership with the Trust, closed on the Domino's Pizza property at the end of December. The total price was \$1.85 million. A federally funded Enhancement Grant administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation contributed \$960,000, plus \$500,000 raised by Franklin's Charge and \$339,000 from the Civil War Trust.

For now, the Trust will own and manage the property. Tenants have about a year to move, according to FC President Paul Gaddis. Demolition will then begin and the property will be taken back to its wartime appearance in time for the battle sesquicentennial. At that time it will be transferred to the Battle of Franklin Trust which manages the Carnton Plantation and Carter House sites.

The Confederate Army of Tennessee was virtually destroyed when it assaulted the Union Army of the Cumberland. The Federals were well dug-in behind earthworks on the

outskirts of Franklin. Confederate commander Gen. John Bell Hood initiated the late-afternoon attacks across more than two miles of open land resulting in thousands of casualties, the vast majority Southerners.

The dead included six Confederate generals, among them the well-regarded Patrick Cleburne. He is believed to have been killed on the recently purchased land in the vicinity of the Carter Cotton Gin. This area was considered the center of the Union line and was actually breached for a short time, only to have Federal reinforcements close the gap.

The gin, generally regarded as a key landmark during the battle, will be reconstructed as part of the battlefield restoration in time for the 150th anniversary, according to FC board member Thomas Flagel. He is leading the efforts to "reconstruct" the gin. "We will be treating this like a construction project," he said. "But included in that will be a tremendous amount of research to determine what the gin should look like." He is working with the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation and its director, Dr. Carroll Van West, on this part of the reclamation.

Battle of Franklin Trust CEO Eric Jacobson commented that to really understand a battle, "you have to walk the ground, hard to do with buildings sitting on it."

By joining forces in 2005, the Franklin's Charge coalition, which includes many local historical and civic groups, seized the opportunity to purchase 110 acres of what was then a golf club. The result was the turning point for preservationists. This land, part of the Confederate attack on the Federal left flank, was

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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.

purchased for more than \$5 million through the fundraising efforts of FC and a matching contribution by the city. Known as the Eastern Flank Battlefield, this ground is now being interpreted. A contract was recently awarded for a \$1 million loop road for tourists.

The recent strip center purchase raises the total acreage saved in the Carter Cotton Gin area to more than seven acres purchased over three years for \$3.2 million. Some of the purchases involved very small opportunities and others, like the Domino's strip, were much more costly. One tract held a Pizza Hut. Three houses on these lots will be moved to new locations. Archeological surveying and research will be conducted as reclamation proceeds.

There have been discussions about a trail system to connect this site to the Eastern Flank as part of the growing battlefield presence, but there are no definite plans at this time.

There will be more to come, says local historian Rick Warwick. "There is too much positive momentum to stop our efforts now."

March Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

The 719th Meeting of The Civil War Round Table on March 8, 2013, featured Mary Chesnut (**Leslie Goddard**), speaking from her residence in Chester S.C. on April 9, 1865 shortly after the fall of Richmond. Mary was not certain if she will stay or flee, and was unaware that General Lee that day surrendered his army. Charleston and Wilmington had surrendered. Yankees were everywhere, “like red ants, like the locusts and frogs which were plagues of Egypt.” Running was useless. She did not know if her husband, General James Chesnut, a former U.S. Senator, would be shot as a soldier or hung as a traitor. The end had come.

Nonetheless, she graciously invited us for ‘southern’ coffee, made with roasted garden peas, from her formerly buried and dented teapot, and read to us from her journals, 48 volumes kept during the war. She recalled Lincoln’s election which she learned upon returning from visiting her sister in Florida – from her railroad car she heard a woman call out “That settles the hash.” Her husband resigned his seat immediately, something Mary would have counseled against, or would have tried.

She was told the president-elect was vulgar and grotesque in appearance, but Stephen A. Douglas told her husband Lincoln was the “hardest fellow to handle” he had ever encountered. She accompanied her husband to Montgomery, a place that held no charms for her, where she watched men jockeying for position in the new Confederacy and playing out ancient grudges from

the old Union. Back in Charleston she could not sleep the night of April 13th, when her husband, aide-de-camp to General Beauregard, was rowing back from Fort Sumter after his negotiations failed and shells began to burst over the fort. In the excitement at the fort’s surrender, Mary didn’t notice that her dress had caught on fire!

Mary had a picture album of Yankee generals, and Lincoln, too, but preferred to dwell on the uplifting, reminiscing over her associations with young people during her time in Richmond society. She observed that the war promoted courting, and recalled Sarah ‘Buck’ Buchanan Preston and John Bell Hood, and Mattie Reedy, who announced her intention to marry John Hunt Morgan despite never having met him. Morgan got wind of this, and finding that she was “as pretty as she was patriotic” fulfilled Mattie’s wish.

She documented her association with Confederate leaders as well. She thought Robert E. Lee “distinguished” on first meeting him; he was “perfection, in fact; no fault to be found if you hunted for it.” She also appreciated the “generous attention” she received from Jefferson and Varina Davis. On one occasion President Davis talked to her for nearly an hour, predicting a long war and offering a sober assessment of the odds facing their nascent and outnumbered country. Mary thought his critics spewed “pernicious nonsense.”

As the war wore on, maintaining her customary life style became

more difficult. When President Davis visited them in Columbia in 1863, she gathered food from nearly everybody for a month before his arrival. Mrs. Preston, Buck’s mother, sent a boned turkey stuffed with truffles. Although her husband offered sixty-year-old Madeira, and she brought out her old china, Mary admitted she could never have afforded the expense herself – by that time they all were in a “sadly molting condition,” and offering their good clothes for food. The week prior she spent five hundred dollars for candles, sugar and a lamp.

The war was frustrating for women. Affairs of state were not open to them, which affected Mary’s “reckless spirit.” Thus, women talked and knitted; her group met to make taffy, but felt rebuked by Mrs. Lee whose rooms were filled with ladies knitting. Although it unnerved her, Mary spent time on hospital duty providing for “awfully smashed-up” soldiers with “loathsome wounds.” Through it all, Mary’s servants remained attentive and loyal albeit they were “like sphinxes,” giving no sign of their true feelings. Mary hated slavery, seeing hypocrisy in a man who holds his head high but yet harbors a “hideous black harem” under the same roof as his wife and daughters.

Mary would return to her home, Mulberry, to begin anew. Her world, the world made by slavery, may have gone to destruction, but by giving voice to Mary Chesnut’s “scribbling,” Goddard enhances the legacy of an indomitable American woman.

GRAPESHOT



On April 16th, **Rob Girardi** will present “Illinois Fights the Civil War” at the Lake Barrington Men’s Club. On Apr. 20th, Rob will speak on “LaSalle County at War” at the Reddick Mansion in Ottawa.

Leslie Goddard will give her first person portrayal of Civil War diarist **Mary Chesnut** April 14th, 4 p.m. at Naper Settlement, and April 16th, at 1:30 p.m. at the 20th Century Club of Park Ridge.

The Annual DuPage County Militaria Show will be held April 20th at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. This is a great opportunity to shop for Civil War books and memorabilia.

On April 23rd, **Bruce Allardice** will present “The Civil War in the South Suburbs” at the Worth Park District Museum. The event starts at 7 p.m.

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 CD format. For pricing and a lecture list, please 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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

Apr. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: “The Battle of Perryville”

Apr. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom Clemens on “Antietam”

Apr. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on “Civil War Corps Command”

Apr. 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: John Fitzpatrick on “There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”

Apr. 13th, Civil War Museum in Kenosha: exhibit of Keith Rocco Civil War artwork. For more information on this and other events, please contact the museum at 262-653-4140 or go to their website at www.kenosha.org/civilwar/index.html.

Apr. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Ken Winkle on “The Civil War in Washington, D.C.”

Apr. 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Don Sender** on “The Lincoln Assassination”

Apr. 24th, Moraine Valley CC: Ted Karamanski “Illinois, Chicago and the Civil War”

Apr. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: **Larry Gibbs** on “The Lost Cause”

May 1st, Lake County CWRT: Ty Rohrer on “Waukegan and the Underground Railroad”

2013 Tour – Antietam, May 1-5
CWRT Symposium – May 18

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.*

April 12: John Fitzpatrick, “There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”

May 10: Ethan Rafuse, “Lee and Gettysburg”

June 14: Timothy B. Smith, “Corinth”

Sept. 13: John Michael Priest, “South Mountain”

Oct. 11: William Cooper, “We Have the War Upon Us”

Nov. 8: Lawrence Hewitt, Nevins-Freeman Address

Dec. 13: Kevin Weddle, “Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral”

Symposium on “Chicago in the Civil War”

On Saturday Apr. 27th, the Glessner House Museum in Chicago will be hosting its Third Annual Civil War Symposium, on “Chicago and the Civil War.” Speakers include Professor Ted Karamanski, Author Tom Campbell, Dave Keller of the Camp Douglas Foundation, and our own **Kurt Carlson**, speaking on “Chicago Business and Industry in the Civil War.” The museum is at 1800 S. Prairie Avenue in Chicago. The event costs \$30 and includes lunch, and is cosponsored by the adjoining Clarke House Museum. For more details, visit the Clarke House Museum website at www.ClarkeHouseMuseum.org.



150 YEARS AGO – APRIL 1863



- 2nd:** A mob demands bread from a supply wagon in Richmond, starting the so-called Bread Riot. Police and soldiers eventually dispersed the crowd.
- 7th:** A fleet of nine Union ironclads under the command of Samuel Dupont sailed into Charleston Harbor and attacked Fort Moultrie and Fort Sumter. Sumter is visibly damaged but the Confederate batteries from the shore heavily damage the nine ironclads and they are forced to withdraw. Naval occupation of the harbor is ruled out.
- 11th:** Union Col. Abel Streight leaves Nashville, Tennessee on a raid of north Alabama and Georgia.
- 12th:** General James Longstreet surrounds Suffolk in southeastern Virginia.
- 13th:** Federal forces defeat the Confederates at Fort Bisland in Louisiana.
- 13th:** General Ambrose Burnside issues General Order 38 in which he stated “anyone found guilty of committing acts for the benefit of the enemies of our country will be subject to execution.”
- 16th:** Rear Admiral David Porter sent 12 vessels south on the Mississippi past Vicksburg. Although hit a number of times by Confederate gunners, the vessels suffered little damage.
- 17th:** Col. Benjamin Grierson [US] leaves La Grange, Tennessee at the head of a 1,700 man cavalry column heading towards Mississippi to raid the state.
- 17th:** General John Marmaduke [CS] leaves Arkansas and enters Missouri on a raid.
- 22nd:** General Grant’s forces south of Vicksburg are resupplied by Porter’s fleet, which suffered heavy losses when transports and barges steamed by Confederate batteries.
- 22nd:** Comprehensive “tax-in-kind” plan passed by the Confederate Senate. It required 10 percent of everything produced or grown be given to the Confederate government.
- 30th:** Army of the Potomac forces set up camp in The Wilderness surrounding the Chancellor family home after crossing the Rappahannock River.
- 30th:** About noon, Ulysses S. Grant begins crossing the Mississippi and landing U. S. troops south of Vicksburg.

Joe Weider Dies

Joe Weider, weightlifting guru and Military History buff, died March 23rd at age 93. The Canadian-born Weider gained fame promoting physical fitness, through personal appearances, publication of fitness magazines, and his sponsorship of bodybuilding pageants. Less well known was Weider's passion for military history. In conjunction with his nephew Eric, he ran "Weider History Group," a company which published such well-known magazines as America's Civil War, Civil War Times, and Military History. Weider's close friend Arnold Schwarzenegger (pictured below with Weider) describes him as his "mentor," kind, generous and "a titan in the fitness industry".



Mount Greenwood Ceremony

On Saturday, April 27th, the Sons of Union Veterans and the Mount Greenwood Cemetery Association will hold a ceremony at historic Mount Greenwood Cemetery on Chicago's far south side, to dedicate new grave markers for some of the 400 Union army veterans buried there. The CWRT's **Rob Girardi** will be speaking on the veteran's lives. Mulligan's Battery and other reenactors will be there. The event starts at 10 a.m., and admission is free.



Civil War Forum in Schaumburg

On Apr. 26th-27th, the Central States Numismatic Society will present a Civil War Educational Forum. The event will be held at the Nirvana Ballroom C, Schaumburg Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. Both days feature presentations starting at 10:30 a.m. Presenters include Professor Bob May on the 1860 election, Tom Campbell on "Fighting Slavery in Chicago," and first person portrayals of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Visit www.centralstates.info for more information.

Ghosts at Camp Douglas?

On April 13th Camp Douglas, the site of the Confederate Prisoner of War Camp in Chicago, will be the site of an "overnight investigation". George Levy, writer of THE book on Camp Douglas (To Die in Chicago) will be giving a slideshow presentation at 7 p.m. followed by

David Keller of The Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation who will be talking about what is happening at Camp Douglas today followed by Ursula Bielski talking about the paranormal history of the site. See the foundation website for more details.