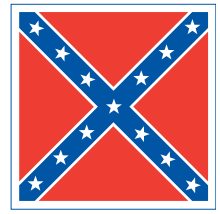


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 2014



## 730th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, April 11

★★★★★

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 Asiago,*

*Baked Halibut,*

*Vegetarian Plate*

*or Fruit Plate*

**Please Note:**

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Apr. 9, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

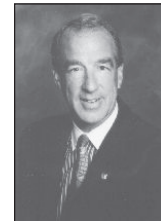
## Scott Bowden on Last Chance for Victory

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Gettysburg is the most written about battle in American military history. Generations after nearly 50,000 soldiers shed their blood there, serious and fundamental misunderstandings persist about Robert E. Lee's generalship during the campaign and battle. Most are the basis of popular myths about the epic fight.

Our April speaker, Scott Bowden, has written a revisionist history of the campaign, Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign. The book studies Lee's choices before, during, and after the battle, the information he possessed at the time and each decision that was made, and why he acted as he did. Even options open to Lee that he did not act upon are carefully explored from the perspective of what Lee and his generals knew at the time.

On April 11th Scott will lead a discussion about Robert E. Lee, the Gettysburg Campaign, and the epic battle.



Scott Bowden

Scott Bowden is a graduate of Texas Christian University and nine-time award-winning author of 25 works connected to Napoleonic and American military history. His book Last Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign, won many literary awards including the Douglas Southall Freeman American History Award. Last Chance for Victory is included in the curriculum of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff

College at Fort Leavenworth, and is one of the two titles connected to the American Civil War ever to be named to the Chief of Staff U.S. Air Force recommended reading list.

Scott lives in Arlington, Texas. His current project is a multi-volume work, Robert E. Lee at War. The Mind and Method of a Great American Soldier.



## Stadium on Fort Negley Grounds to Close; Site's Future Undecided

BY GREGORY L. WADE  
(April 2014 Civil War News)

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** – When one of the country's largest Civil War structures, Fort Negley, was reopened in 2004 as part of the Nashville park system, visitors could look down the hill to see crowds watching baseball at Greer Stadium next door.

The Nashville Sounds baseball team, which has made Greer Stadium its home since the 1970s, is relocating to a spot near the Tennessee State Capital. Ground was broken in January for the stadium that should be completed for the 2015 season.

With Greer Stadium's location just a cannon shot from downtown, there will be a lot of discussion to determine the site's future use, says Fort Negley Historic Museum Coordinator Krista Castillo. "This will be a long process, but we certainly hope there could be some history-related use of the property."

The Metro Board of Parks and Recreation owns the 16-acre site which includes the stadium and parking lot leased to the Nashville Sounds professional triple-A minor league team associated with the Milwaukee Brewers.

Fort Negley and the Greer Stadium acreage are a city Historic Landmark District.

Suggestions for the site's future use include green space, an amateur baseball facility, arts center, and place for living histories, reenactments and related Civil War programs.

Other suggestions given in a local survey are to connect the tract to a nearby historical cemetery via trails and a Civil War museum site.

Fort Negley was part of a series of works and forts around the city that once made Nashville among the most fortified in the country. Most of these structures were lost to development except for Fort Negley, city owned since 1928.

The star-shaped structure on the crest of a hill once anchored the fortifications around Nashville's southern borders. It has massive stone works. Close to 3,000 African American laborers built it during the war, many dying during its construction.

While Fort Negley was never directly attacked during the 1864 Battle of Nashville, its imposing site and strong artillery positions guarded a significant area of the city.

When the war ended, the fort was ignored and became an overgrown haven for crime and the homeless. During the Depression, the deteriorating site was given new life when the Works Progress Administration rebuilt much of it, but as World War II peaked, interest in the fort declined and it was closed again in 1945.

After efforts to restore Fort Negley gained momentum in the 1990s, the city funded \$1 million for its restoration. It reopened on the Battle of Nashville 140th anniversary.

The adjoining acreage now oc-

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
1039 Hinswood  
Darien, Illinois 60561  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
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.

---

cupied by the baseball stadium was used by Union troops as part of the fort complex, according to Castillo. She notes a 2007 Master Plan for the site says "any reuse of the site should be compatible with the overall mission and goals of the Metropolitan Board of Parks & Recreation, the preservation of Fort Negley and public use of and access to, the site."

The process is just getting started, says Castillo, who notes a new friends group that is getting organized will help in the process.

---

### Reminder—Bearss Fund

Our annual appeal for the Bearss Fund is underway. The CWRT asks for donations so that we can, during our annual battlefield tour, give Ed a check for the battlefield preservation effort of Ed's choice. Donees will get their names published in the newsletter.

## March Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff gave an excellent presentation to The Civil War Round Table at its 729th regular meeting on March 14, 2014. The talk was composed of three parts: “The Hinge of History,” the importance of Missouri in the *ante bellum* westward movement; an investigation into the strife along the Kansas-Missouri border in the years leading to secession; and the role of the border in the civil war, culminating in the Sterling Price 1864 Missouri raid.

Eickhoff led off by focusing on the influence of the Missouri border with Kansas in the development of the nation in the era of Manifest Destiny. Both future states were part of the Louisiana Purchase. The compromise of 1820 brought Missouri into the union as a slave state, a seminal event prior to the civil war. The border area later became the staging ground for the trek across the continent to California, Oregon, and Santa Fe.

Missouri was thrust center stage in 1854 with the passage of what Eickhoff terms one of the “most consequential pieces of legislation” to come out of congress, the Kansas-Nebraska Act. The ‘popular sovereignty’ it espoused propelled Missourians across the border as the vanguard of slaveholding interests determined to make Kansas a pro-slavery state. Enter John Brown, who moved to Kansas in 1855 determined to stop slavery. His action in the Pottowatamie Massacre triggered the depredations of ‘Bleeding

Kansas.’ Ultimately, the controversy over the Lecompton Constitution set the border region on a course of conflict, a “proxy war,” according to Barnhart, that did not end until 1865.

When war broke out, the government of Missouri leaned pro-south, with Governor Jackson maneuvering toward secession after President Lincoln called for volunteers. Although Sterling Price voted against secession, Barnhart maintains he voted with the majority knowing that the new governor was planning on joining the Confederacy. When that plan failed, he and Jackson retreated to southwest Missouri and set up an alternate government. After battles at Wilsons’ Creek in August 1861 and Pea Ridge in March 1862, the confederate cause in Missouri laid dormant – military control rested in the hands of the union army.

The long conflict on the Kansas-Missouri border fomented guerilla war. The area was sparsely populated, but opposing forces lived in relative close proximity, generating violence and reprisal. Three specific acts/events stand out: Jim Lane, notorious Jayhawker, formed the first all-black militia, the 1st Kansas Colored; the sack of Lawrence, the worst act of terrorism on American soil before 9/11; and General Order No. 11 issued by General Ewing, which forced over 20,000 people from their homes in four Missouri border counties.

Sterling Price conceived his Missouri raid in July 1864, a dire time for confederate fortunes. He envisioned a campaign similar to that of Joe Shelby’s 1,400 mile 1863 raid that raised men, material, and provisions for the cause. Price wished also to install Governor Reynolds in the state house, but was “not equal to the command,” per Kirby Smith. Further, he delayed in commencing the campaign and used too few men for the task. Barnhart considers Price “delusional” in thinking the invasion would cause people to throng to the cause. Whatever momentum the raid had was lost when Price became side-tracked at Pilot Knob. After the fiasco there he moved slowly, burdened with wagons full of provisions. Despite internecine warfare among Kansas republicans reluctant to send men out of the state, union forces under General Curtis ultimately met Price at Westport, just east of the border, where he was routed. His army saved by a heroic stand by Shelby’s cavalry at Newtonia, Price’s force limped through the Indian Territory into Arkansas in early December.

Barnhart and Eickhoff make a strong case for experiencing the history of the Kansas-Missouri border. The duo encourages us to visit the area, to ‘travel with a purpose,’ and to immerse ourselves in the rich heritage discussed in the “The Big Divide,” their excellent book on this subject. We should take them up on the invitation.

## GRAPESHOT



On April 25th-26th, in the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, the Central States Numismatic Society will hold its **Third Annual Civil War Forum**. Speakers include **Robert I. Girardi**, Peter Cozzens, Amy Taylor, Lance Herdegen, and Dennis Boggs as President Lincoln. Admission is free. For more information, email Ray Lockwood at [sunrayofmarion@aol.com](mailto:sunrayofmarion@aol.com).

On April 26th, **St. Xavier University** in Chicago will hold a conference for History Educators titled "Visualizing the American Past: Remembering Stephen A. Douglas in the Age of Ken Burns." For more information, email [DouglasSymposium@sxu.edu](mailto:DouglasSymposium@sxu.edu).

The 58th annual **Lincoln Tomb Ceremony** will start 10 a.m. on April 12th in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield. The event is sponsored by the SUVCW and MOLLUS. The luncheon will feature a talk by Dr. Trevor Steinbach. For more information, go to the SUV website, [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Jon Austin on "Civil War Field Embalming: A Demonstration"
- Apr. 10th, Lake County CWRT: Charlie Banks on "The Great Rail Movement"
- Apr. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Scott Bowden on "Last Chance for Victory"
- Apr. 11th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Dave Powell on "Confederate Cavalry in the Chickamauga Campaign"
- Apr. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Rhonda Kohl on "The Prairie Boys Go to War"
- Apr. 16th, Starved Rock CWRT of Ottawa: Sara Manz on "Civil War Chaplains"
- Apr. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Panel Presentation on "Civil War 101"
- Apr. 22nd, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Bjorn Skaptason on "The Atlanta Campaign"
- Apr. 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Arne Bernstein on "Chicago's Civil War Connections"
- Apr. 26th, Rogers Park Public Library: Dave Keller on "Camp Douglas"

## 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*.

May 9: Dave Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

June 13: Kenneth Noe, "The War in Appalachia"

Aug. 15: Lance Herdegen, "The Iron Brigade"

Sept. 12: Frank Varney on "General Grant's Memoirs"

Oct. 10: Mark Bradley, Topic TBD

Nov. 14: Steve Towne on "Civil War Espionage"

Dec. 12: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address

The next **Virtual Book Signing** will take place on Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 6:00pm. Shauna Devine will talk about her new book, [Learning From the Wounded: The Civil War and the Rise of American Medical Science](#). Also on the program is Dr. Gordon Dammann. Gordon will talk about his long history collecting Civil War Medical material, as well as his role as founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

### Camp Douglas Victory!

Just in: Thanks to the efforts of all of you, the necessary funds have been raised to erect a marker at the Camp Douglas POW site in Chicago. The marker dedication ceremony is planned for this summer. More details will be forthcoming.





## 150 YEARS AGO — APRIL 1864



- 4th:** Major General Philip Sheridan moves from command of an infantry division in the Army of the Cumberland to command cavalry in the Army of the Potomac
- 8th:** By a vote of 38 to 6, the U. S. Senate approves the 13th Amendment and sends it to the states for ratification
- 8th, 9th:** Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, LA. General Richard Taylor's Confederate army turns back the advance of a Union army led by General Nathaniel Banks.
- 12th:** Battle of Fort Pillow, TN. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest Confederates capture the fort. Forrest's men (allegedly) massacre many of the black defenders of the fort.
- 17th:** Ulysses S. Grant ends prisoner exchanges with the South. He felt the practice was "... prolonging the conflict"
- 20th:** Culminating a three-day attack that included the appearance of the new Confederate ironclad ram Albemarle, General R. F. Hoke captures Plymouth, North Carolina and a large amount of badly needed supplies. Federal losses totaled 2800 men.
- 24th:** Battle of Marks' Mill, AR. Confederates capture federals escorting a large wagon train.
- 30th:** Battle of Jenkins Ferry, AR. In a rear guard action, federal forces under Gen. Frederick Steele repulse the attacks of Gen. Kirby Smith's Confederate pursuers.

### This month in the history of the Chicago CWRT

- 1941 (73 years ago):** John W. Curran spoke on "The Trial of the Lincoln Conspirators" (note: this was the 5th meeting of the CWRT)
- 1964 (50 years ago):** T. Harry Williams spoke on "The Civil War in Louisiana"
- 1989 (25 years ago):** Charlie Wesselhoeft spoke on "The Army of Tennessee under Grant"
- 2004 (10 years ago):** Jim Ogden spoke on "Sherman Targets the War Resources"

### Lincoln Exhibit in Elgin

Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War," a traveling exhibition opening at the Gail Borden Public Library, 270 N. Grove Ave. in Elgin, April 2-May 16, examines how President Abraham Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War – the secession of Southern states, slavery and wartime civil liberties. Special presentations will be part of the Exhibit, including a talk by **Robert I. Girardi** on April 23rd. For more information, see the online article at <http://couriernews.suntimes.com/news/26412509418/lincoln-exhibit-coming-to-gail-borden-library-in-elgin.html>

## **Pristine Earthworks in Triune Tenn., Need Protection**

**BY GREGORY L. WADE**  
*(April 2014 Civil War News)*

**TRIUNE, Tenn.** — Some of the best-preserved and relatively unknown Civil War earthworks in the country are hidden at a once obscure crossroads known as Triune.

Tennessee Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty told hikers on a recent Franklin Civil War Round Table tour that increased awareness is critical as “time will eventually run out for these works.”

His state agency is tasked with identifying and coordinating efforts to save Tennessee battle grounds from the French and Indian War through the Civil War.

The Triune fortifications were built in 1863 to hold this critical crossroads between Nashville, Franklin and Murfreesboro. The complex is roughly 100 acres of a largely rural area some 20 miles south of Nashville. A signal corps position was set at its highest point.

Before the war, Triune was one of the most prosperous areas in Middle Tennessee with large plantations, several schools and businesses. As the war progressed, Union Gen. David Stanley ordered all buildings with ties to Confederate soldiers burned, and the community largely ceased to exist.

Today, growth from Nashville, Franklin to the west and Murfreesboro to the east puts this historical property in the eventual bull’s-eye of development.

Nearby are major state roads and an interstate highway where thousands pass daily not realizing the historical treasure at Triune. While many old photos depict the various buildings, no known period pictures show the works themselves.

Prouty calls the site “hallowed ground.” He told the group, “Not only were there numerous skirmishes in the area but many soldiers who would die of various reasons in camp.” About 30,000 Federal troops were posted in the fortifications.

Bricks and fireplace stones from an antebellum home in the works can be seen. Officers under Federal commander Gordon Granger used the home. Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, in an 1863 raid near the area, launched a few artillery rounds at the structure, destroying it.

It is hoped that the land will be saved through the efforts of landowners and interested parties. Gary Moore of The Tennessee Land Trust, a non-profit dedicated to saving farms, woodlands and other properties, says there are “creative” ways through conservation easements to protect the grounds from development. He presented several ideas to the group before the tour.

Landowner Doyle Monday purchased a large piece of the grounds about two years ago from a family that had held it since the war. He plans to build a home in the area, but has become intrigued with the fortifications and is working to prevent erosion of the earthen structures on his land.

Ginger Shirling, who owns nearby acreage with a conservation easement in place, said, “this place is special. I get emotional talking about the heritage of our land.”

As the group hiked through wooded areas and pastures inhabited by curious cattle, Prouty pointed out stone walls and what may have been a powder magazine.

With proper protection there is “no telling what an archeological survey might find that would add to the story of the Civil War soldier,” he said.

Franklin resident Sam Whitson spoke for all at the walk when he observed the still stacked rocks: “Those stones were last touched by a soldier and are in their most pristine state. We have to save what we can.”

### **Special August Meeting**

The CWRT has set up a Special meeting for Friday, August 15th, to be held at the Rosewood Banquet Hall and Restaurant in Rosemont, Illinois. The CWRT wants to see if a meeting place outside the Chicago Loop will be more convenient for our members. Author **Lance Herdegen**, an always-entertaining presenter, will be the speaker. More details will be forthcoming.