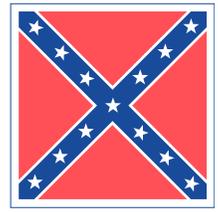


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

March 2015



740th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, March 13th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$49 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Roast Turkey or Baked Salmon

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, March 11, 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.

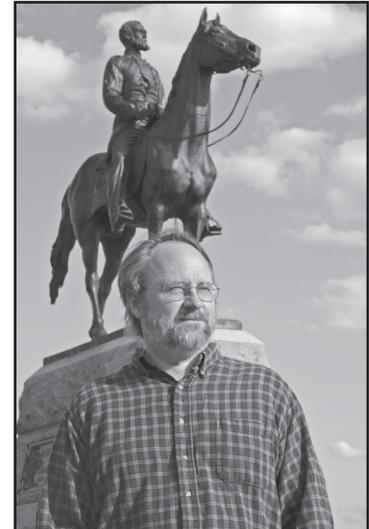
Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$25 with validation. More if not validated Other parking is available at 437 N. Orleans.

Tom Huntington on *My Search for George Gordon Meade*

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Although in command of the Army of the Potomac for a mere three days before the battle, Major General George Gordon Meade managed to defeat Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia during three days of vicious fighting. The cantankerous general remained in command of the army for the rest of the war even as he watched his reputation decline. "I suppose after awhile it will be discovered I was not at Gettysburg at all," he griped in a letter to his wife.

Tom Huntington's talk is titled "My Search for George Gordon Meade." He will tell about his journey of discovery as he researched the story of the victor of Gettysburg and the reasons why he has largely disappeared from history books. Huntington will talk a bit about Meade's life, but also about the travels he made as he followed in Meade's footsteps. He visited the battlefields where he fought, but also museums and cemeteries with links to Meade. He visited a buried arm, a severed leg, and a horse's head, and he



Tom Huntington

talked to park rangers, curators, preservationists, historians, and people who have found their passion in Civil War history.

Tom Huntington is the author of Searching for George Gordon Meade: The Forgotten

Victor of Gettysburg, as well as Guide to Gettysburg Battlefield Monuments, Pennsylvania Civil War Trails, and Ben Franklin's Philadelphia. He is also the former editor of *American History* and *Historic Traveler* magazines, and his writing has appeared in many publications, including *Smithsonian*, *Air & Space*, *American Heritage*, *Invention & Technology*, *British Heritage*, and *Yankee*. He lives in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Beth Ann, and two children.



TRUST'S 2014 SUCCESSES BRING TO 40,000 ACRES TOTAL LAND SAVED (February/March 2015 Civil War News)

WASHINGTON — The Civil War Trust closed out 2014 having protected more than 2,300 acres of battlefield land and bringing its grand total to 40,000 total acres saved at 122 sites in 20 states.

“A generation from now, I believe that 2014 will be remembered as the year when the conceivable scope of battlefield preservation exploded,” said Trust President James Lighthizer. “We demonstrated, in multiple ways, the tremendous level of public support for protection of hallowed ground as outdoor classrooms and living memorials to the sacrifices of America’s military.”

In its accounting of 2014, the Trust reported working with willing landowners and preservation partners to complete 45 transactions at 26 battlefields in 10 states.

Battlefield land was preserved at: Appomattox Court House, Va.; Bentonville, N.C.; Brandy Station, Va.; Cedar Creek, Va.; Cold Harbor, Va.; Davis Bridge, Tenn.; Franklin, Tenn.;

Also, Gettysburg, Pa.; Glendale, Va.; Glorieta Pass, N.M.; Harpers Ferry, W.Va.; Kelly’s Ford, Va.; Mansfield, La.; Mill Springs, Ky.; North Anna, Va.; Petersburg, Va.; Port Republic, Va.; Rappahannock Station, Va.;

And, Ream’s Station, Va.; Richmond, Ky.; Shepherdstown, W.Va.; Shiloh, Tenn.; South Mountain, Md.; Stones River, Tenn.; Trevilian Station, Va.; and Vicksburg, Miss.

Lighthizer said the Trust surpassed 40,000 acres with the October closing of the historic 654-acre Fontaine Farm at North Anna — a property encompassing nearly the entire scene of the May 23, 1864, combat.

In November, the Trust embarked on a large preservation effort at Chancellorsville, seeking to raise nearly \$500,000 to save 479 acres associated with Confederate Lt. Gen.

Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson’s flank attack.

Lighthizer said these types of landmark transactions were facilitated by the Trust’s ongoing Campaign 150 sesquicentennial fundraising, which, in April, met its original \$40 million goal and was extended to a \$50 million target.

Last July, the Trust announced a \$5.5 million national fundraising campaign to save a 4.1-acre tract in Gettysburg that played a key role in combat on July 1, 1863. The purchase, which was finalized Jan. 7, includes the Mary Thompson House, used during the rest of the battle as Gen. Robert E. Lee’s headquarters.

What Lighthizer called the year’s most significant developments in battlefield preservation came on Veterans Day when the Trust announced the launch of Campaign 1776 (www.campaign1776.org), the first-ever national initiative to preserve and interpret Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 battlefields.

Its first project involves assisting the State of New Jersey to protect four acres on the Princeton Battlefield, scene of George Washington’s first victory over British forces on Jan. 3, 1777.

Campaign 1776 received a major boost on Dec. 12, when Congress passed legislation to extend federal matching grants for battlefield protection through 2021 and, for the first time, make sites from other conflicts eligible for what had previously been a Civil War-only program.

“The extension of this grant program mirrors our reasoning for the creation of Campaign 1776,” Lighthizer said. “All of these American battlefields are sacred places — living memorials to this nation’s brave soldiers, past, present and future — and it is up to us to ensure their protection.”

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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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.

He praised dozens of partners — from government entities to organizations and individuals and Trust members — for making possible the Trust’s preservation success in 2014

“Our job would be a whole lot harder without the tireless efforts of these leaders, along with many of our elected officials who fight — tooth and nail — for programs essential to our efforts,” he said.

The Trust also works to promote appreciation and understanding of the Civil War through educational programs and digital offerings. In 2014, its website, www.civilwar.org, received more than 5.8 million unique visits — an increase of 30 percent from 2013.

The War Department video series is a popular new online offering. Teachers benefit from two new programs: the Teachers Regiment, a virtual community of professionals, guides and other public historians working to raise the level of history instruction nationwide, and the Field Trip Fund, a scholarship fund to assist teachers in planning and paying for student trips to historic sites.

Information about the Trust is at www.civilwar.org. Donations may be made online or mailed to PO Box 17686, Baltimore, MD 21298-8333.

February Meeting

By Mark Marranga

On Feb. 13th, Leslie Goddard presented “Gone With The Wind And The Construction Of Civil War Memory” to the CWRT. The following are excerpts from her talk.

On the evening of Dec. 15, 1939 in Atlanta, Georgia, *Gone with the Wind* had its world premiere. And the city could not have been in a more celebratory mood if the South had won the Civil War. 700,000 visitors had booked hotel rooms, in a city of 300,000. The Governor of Georgia had proclaimed day a state holiday. In days leading up, there had been 3 days of parades and balls.

GWTW has gone on to be one of the most successful movies of all time. If we translate ticket sales into contemporary dollars, it is still the world’s all-time box office champion having taken in more than \$3.3 billion dollars.

In all the publicity – the press releases, the souvenir books, the programs – producers emphasized the fastidious historical accuracy of the filmmakers. Selznick hired an Atlanta expert on the Old South, Wilbur Kurtz, to ensure the accuracy of the sets, costumes, and other features. The studio made much of producer David O. Selznick’s insistence on authenticity. They even had to confirm whether oral thermometers were in usual in Civil War hospitals.

One result of this emphasis on historical accuracy was that mainstream critics (and viewers in the 1930s) tended to accept what they were seeing as an accurate representation of history.

Today, however, things have

changed. In the decades since its premiere *Gone With the Wind*, has come under serious criticism for its many historical inaccuracies, ranging from its avoidance of any depiction of Southern atrocities to its portrayal of loyal, contented slaves.

Many of these historical inaccuracies were well-known to filmmakers. When Selznick sent researchers to Clayton County, Georgia (the fictional setting for the movie and the book), they reported back that no plantations had been as large as Selznick envisioned Tara. Certainly none had big white columns. Selznick replied that it didn’t matter. He designed Tara as it appears in the film. He wanted to conform to the vision of an American South of mansions and elegance. The view of the antebellum South reflected an already well-established mythology built up by a long procession of earlier films.

Does it matter, though? These inaccuracies might not really matter. After all, this IS fiction. Except that Selznick made a great deal about the film’s historical accuracy. And many have taken this movie AS history.

In his book *Causes Lost, Won and Forgotten*, Gary Gallagher lays out four primary interpretative traditions that have been used by Americans to understand the American Civil War cinematically: The Lost Cause; The Union Cause; The Emancipation Cause, and The Reconciliation Cause.

Using his framework, it’s immediately apparent that this film fits squarely within the Lost Cause interpretive tradition. It

portrays the Confederacy’s cause as noble and its leaders are exemplars of old-fashioned chivalry, defeated by the Union armies through their numerical and industrial force that overwhelmed the South despite Southern courage and nobility.

Does this film really matter, especially when it comes to Civil War memory? As many other critics have concluded, this movie’s presentation of the devastating experiences of Southerners as a result of this war is deeply moving.

And that unfolding story of loss, defeat, and the struggle to survive successfully documents the feelings and experiences of many Southerners. The “accuracy” the movie achieves is not necessarily that of obsessive detail but rather an accuracy of a mythic nature, with all its epic and tragic qualities. No myth of apolitical and no myth’s meanings are ever universal.

Gone With the Wind was not the first movie to use film traditions and stereotypes of the Old South and the Lost Cause, but it used them in imaginative and powerful ways to create a mythic epic of America’s Civil War. It has become the model text on which writers and filmmakers draw or against which they argue.

So it is perhaps not surprising that just as Uncle Tom’s Cabin became a reference point for all white and black writing about slavery, so since the 1930s, GWTW has become a reference point for depictions of the South before and after the war. It is our touchstone for representations of the slaveocracy and Southern white middle-class experience of the Civil War.

GRAPESHOT



On March 11th, at the Homewood Public Library, **Bruce Allardice** will present "Before the Chicago Cubs: Baseball Comes to the Windy City," a look at baseball in Chicago during the decade of the Civil War.

The **Battlefield Balladeers** will perform at the Palos Park Public Library, Mar. 10th, at 7 p.m.

At the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** on March 13th, at noon, Trevor Steinbach presents **The Other Civil War Prisoner Camps in Illinois**. During the Civil War one out of every four Confederate prisoners were held in an Illinois prison camp. Mr. Steinbach's program details the truths and myths of the Illinois camps including the one that "detained" Ashley Wilkes in the book *Gone With The Wind*. Information on museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

The **Waukegan History Museum** has a current exhibit, "War Efforts in Waukegan," that will appeal to Civil War buffs. The exhibit runs through June 6th.

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

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

- Mar. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on "Gouverneur K. Warren"
- Mar. 12th, Lake County CWRT: Dick Stilling on "Lincoln's Assassins"
- Mar. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: Tom Huntington on "Searching for George Gordon Meade"
- Mar. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Bruce Levin on "Fall of the House of Dixie"
- Mar. 19th, McHenry County CWRT: Ed Urban on "Col. C. R. Ellet"
- Mar. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Sam Blackwell on "The 12th Illinois Cavalry"
- Mar. 26th, South Suburban CWRT: **Larry Gibbs** on "The Lost Cause"

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.

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 10: Michael Burlingame on "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"
- May 8: Eric Leonard on "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville"
- June 12: Garry Adelman on "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"
- Sept. 11: Dale Phillips on "The Capture of New Orleans"
- Oct. 9: Dennis Frye, Nevins-Freeman Award: "John Brown: The Spark that Ignited War"
- Nov. 13: Philip Leigh on "Trading with the Enemy"
- Dec. 11: Dave Keller on "Camp Douglas"

Virtual Book Signing

Join the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** on April 2nd. We welcome Scott Martelle & John Waugh. Martelle will discuss *The Madman & The Assassin*; Waugh will discuss *Lincoln at War's End*. Ordering opens February 27. Learn more about these books and order yours at http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor_2.

150 Years Ago - March, 1865

March 2nd: Battle of Waynesborough. Union cavalry under George Armstrong Custer rout a small Confederate force under Jubal Early.

3rd: The U.S. Government establishes the Freedman's Bureau, to aid the newly freed slaves.

4th: President Lincoln delivers his famous 2nd Inaugural Address. Lincoln outlines his second term talking directly to the Confederate people "...with malice toward none; with charity for all..." Andrew Johnson, replacing Henry Hamlin as Vice-President, gives a rambling, drunk speech. He had been given too much whiskey as medicine by a doctor.

8th: Battle of Kinston, NC. Confederate forces rout an isolated Union brigade, but fail to drive off the main Union army advancing from Wilmington.

11th: Sherman's Union army captures Fayetteville, NC.

13th: The Confederacy passes a law allowing for the induction of "negro soldiers." The measure did not state that blacks who fought for the Confederacy would be free, although that was apparently the understanding

16th: Battle of Averasborough (Taylor's Hole), NC. Gen. William Hardee tries to halt the federal advance near this small town, but is forced to withdraw before overwhelming numbers

19th-21st: Battle of Bentonville, NC. Joe Johnston's Confederate army attacks one wing of Sherman's army, but is driven back. Johnston's army escapes, and Sherman resumes his advance.

22nd: Major General James Wilson begins a cavalry "raid" that will capture Selma, AL, and cut through AL and GA.

25th: Battle of Fort Stedman, VA. General John B. Gordon captured Fort Stedman, a Union outpost on the line around besieged Petersburg, eventually punching a hole 3/4 of mile wide. With overwhelming force the federal troops turned back the advance, recaptured the fort and retook the lines.

27th: Battle of Spanish Fort, near Mobile, AL.

31st: Battle of White Oak Road and Dinwiddie Court House, VA. In a tactical defeat for the Federals, George Pickett's Confederates turn back Phil Sheridan's cavalry and elements of the Fifth Corps.

The CWRT in the Past

70 Years Ago (Mar. 1945)—Symposium on "Jefferson Davis"

50 Years Ago (Mar. 1965)—General Jim Dan Hill on "Command Structure in the Union and Confederate navies"

25 Years Ago (Mar. 1990)—Michael Andrus on "General Edward (Allegheny) Johnson"

10 Years Ago (Mar. 2005)—Bruce Allardice on "The Vote to Win the War: The Election of 1864"

New Camp Douglas book!

The **Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation** is pleased to announce that a new book, The Camp Douglas Story: Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison, published by History Press, will be in the bookstores by April. The Camp Douglas foundation (www.campdouglas.org) is offering a special presale of the book. All net proceeds from these sales will be used for the benefit of the foundation's efforts to memorialize Camp Douglas.

New dates for 2016 CWRT Tour!

The dates for the 2016 CWRT Battlefield Tour (covering the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864) have been changed to

April 14-17, 2016.

Historian **Harry W. Pfanz** passed away recently, at age 93. Pfanz is perhaps best known for his lengthy, detailed battle studies of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Historian Martin W. Johnson wants to remind CWRT members that the 1896 Illinois G.A.R. post rosters are online. This information will help Illinois descendants join the Civil War Round Tables.

<http://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/isl7/id/2885/rec/1%3Chttp://www.idaillinois.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/isl7/id/2885/rec/1>

Lincoln Funeral Reenactment in Springfield!

2015 will be an extraordinary year for re-enactors, individuals and organizations that are steeped in Civil War history. This year not only brings to a close the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it will remind the world of the 150th anniversary that changed the course of American History – the death of President Abraham Lincoln.

For the first time since 1865, thousands of re-enactors, period carriages, visitors and dignitaries will, on MAY 1 – 3- 2015, convene in Springfield, Illinois, to pay tribute to our 16th President with superb events and, the unparalleled historic and solemn re-creation of the funeral procession to Oak Ridge Cemetery.

(Although MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 is the official anniversary date of President Lincoln's burial, the above dates were selected to preclude weekday business disruption.)

United States and international dignitaries are cordially invited to participate.

Abraham Lincoln scholars are cordially invited to participate in the event symposia. Visit http://lincolnfunealtrain.org/2015_event.php for event details.