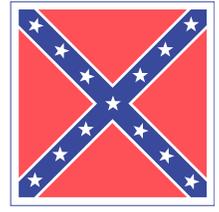


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2015



## 747TH REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, December 11th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$50 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée: Chicken  
New Orleans or  
Filipino*

**Please Note:**

**Make your reservations by Sunday, Dec. 6, 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.

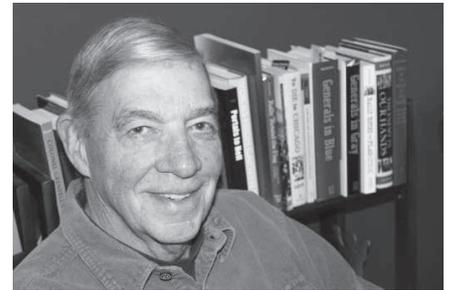
**Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE.**

## Dave Keller on Camp Douglas

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Opened in 1861, Camp Douglas was a Union training and reception facility for over 40,000 Union soldiers in Chicago. Camp Douglas became a prison camp, housing over 30,000 Confederate prisoners, from 1862 until it was demolished in 1865. Containing over 200 buildings on 60 acres, Camp Douglas was the most significant Civil War facility in Northern Illinois.

On Dec. 11th, Dave Keller, Managing Director of the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation Board of Directors, will present a history of the history of Camp Douglas and Camp Douglas stories from diaries and journals of Confederate prisoners of the Camp. The presentation includes information on conditions and loss of life at the camp, current status of the camp's site, and work done by the Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation to provide a lasting remembrance of Camp Douglas.



David Keller is a long time resident of Chicago and an amateur historian. Mr. Keller's professional life included various executive positions at Chicago area commercial banks. Currently he is a respected expert witness in banking matters throughout the country. Retired since 2002, he devotes much of his time to volunteer



activities including the Lincoln Park Zoo, Chicago History Museum and American Youth Soccer Organization.

David's interest in Camp Douglas comes from his interest in the Civil War, Civil War Prison Camps and 19th century Chicago history. The founder of the Foundation, Mr. Keller is in demand as a speaker on the Civil War and Camp Douglas and has written a two books, The Story of Camp Douglas, Chicago's Forgotten Civil War Prison and Robert Anderson Bagby, Civil War Diary (Annotated) 1863-1865.

## NEW ALLIANCE SUPPORTS CULPEPER STATE PARK

By Scott C. Boyd  
(November 2015 *Civil War News*)

CULPEPER, Va. — The momentum for a new state park incorporating the Brandy Station and Cedar Mountain battlefields in Culpeper County continued with the Civil War Trust announcing the formation of the Brandy Station & Cedar Mountain State Park Alliance on Sept. 25.

Alliance members include the Trust, Brandy Station Foundation (BSF), Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield, Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership, Preservation Virginia, Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), Culpeper Department of Tourism and Remington Community Partnership.

At a Sept. 29 meeting, Trust consultants Glenn Stach and Kennedy Smith briefed alliance members and others on prospects for the new state park, according to Diane Logan, president of the Friends of Cedar Mountain Battlefield.

An economic impact study is expected in early November.

Reports in the Culpeper and Fredericksburg newspapers said the consultants believe a new state park incorporating both battlefields could draw 100,000 visitors annually.

This possible visitor count does not approach the visitation at the long-established Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (870,000 visitors) or the Manassas National Battlefield Park (500,000 visitors), both operated by the National Park Service.

Nonetheless, the proposed park “fills a need, bringing a state park to an area under-served in this regard,” Paula L. Combs, public relations manager for the PEC, told *Civil War News* in an email.

The Trust and the BSF own 1,020 acres at Brandy Station. An additional 3,217 acres are protected through conservation easements in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation (see October CWN).

The preserved acreage will increase — the Trust is under contract to buy a modern house and 10.5 acres on Fleetwood Hill from Page Mitchell. She and her husband, B.B., who died in 2011, were early opponents of major residential and commercial development on the battlefield and helped start the Brandy Station Foundation in 1989.

The Trust has also preserved 164 acres at Cedar Mountain through purchase along with 421 acres protected through conservation easements.

“I think a state park will be very beneficial to BSF and for the Culpeper community,” said Brandy Station Foundation President Joe McKinney.

“A state park — with the associated advertising and support from Virginia Tourism — should attract many more visitors to the battlefield and to the Graffiti House than are drawn at present,” he said.

“Some will come for the history, others perhaps for recreational activities such as horseback riding, hiking, biking, rafting or camping. We anticipate that this state park — like most — will be multi-use.” ...

Of major importance for McKinney’s group is “discussion about locating the park’s visitor center at the Graffiti House,” the foundation’s headquarters.

The Commonwealth has the resources to address several current limitations at the house, according to McKinney. Expanding the restroom facilities, improving handicapped accessibility and increasing the hours open with state employees could be done.

More than one preservation group official endorsed the idea of the two battlefields being administered together as one combined park.

“Combining the two parks is the most efficient and cost effective option,” said Meg Martin, communications manager for the Civil War Trust. “A good practical example is Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.”

“By creating only one park, the Commonwealth can likely conserve resources,” McKinney said, citing

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[www.chicagocwrt.org](http://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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org).

... examples like needing one visitor center instead of two and fewer full-time staff.

...

“We are moving as one to create a permanent place of education, recreation and reflection,” Trust President James Lighthizer said in the Sept. 25 announcement, thanks to the tremendous support of its Alliance partners.

“With the 80th anniversary of the Virginia state park system on the immediate horizon, this is the moment to act and secure a legacy for the Old Dominion that will last for generations to come,” Lighthizer said.

The Battle of Cedar Mountain was fought Aug. 9, 1862. Confederate Maj. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s troops, aided by troops under Maj. Gen. A.P. Hill, repulsed Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks’s corps, preventing them from seizing the rail junction at Gordonsville. The battle marked the shift in focus from the failed Union Peninsula Campaign to operations in Northern Virginia.

The June 9, 1863, Battle of Brandy Station, was the first battle in the Gettysburg Campaign and the war’s largest cavalry battle. Union Maj. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton’s troops surprised Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s forces in camp, but were repulsed after heavy fighting.

Alliance information is at [www.facebook.com/BSCMStatePark](http://www.facebook.com/BSCMStatePark)

## Veterans Day at Rosehill Cemetery

On Veterans Day Rosehill Cemetery hosted a salute to our nation's veterans, something the past 10 years. Several Civil War (and other) re-enactor groups experience. Some photos are below.



*An artillery salute is fired.*



*A 21 gun salute, in front of the Rosehill Chapel.*



*Mrs. General George H. Thomas (JoEllen Kowalski) graced the event! (left)*

## GRAPESHOT



On December 4th, the Abraham Lincoln Bookstore and the Union League Club CWRT are hosting a luncheon at the Union League Club of Chicago, for Bud Robertson. The event starts at 11:30. Reservations required.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum will host Gene Salecker Dec. 11th, noon, as part of its lunchbox series. Salecker will speak on "The Sultana Disaster: What Caused it?" For this and other events, visit <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>

Larry Hewitt will be speaking on "Myths and Myth Makers of Civil War History" at the New Orleans CWRT Dec. 9th, and the Austin CWRT Dec. 10th.

Historian Wiley Sword died in Georgia last month, at age 77. A good friend to our CWRT, Winfield Wiley Sword presented at several of our meetings, and authored many books, *Shiloh: Bloody April* being just one of them. The CWRT awarded Wiley the Nevins-Freeman Award in 1997.

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](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

- Dec. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Kevin Connelly on "Custer in the Shenandoah"
- Dec. 10th, Lake County CWRT Xmas party
- Dec. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dave Keller on "Camp Douglas"
- Dec. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Chris Kolakowski on "Stones River and the Tullahoma Campaign"
- Dec. 17th, South Suburban CWRT: Christmas Party
- Dec. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Larry Gibbs on "The Lost Cause"

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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.

## Bulletin Board



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O'Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated.*

- Jan. 8, 2016: David Moore on "William S. Rosecrans"
- Feb. 12: Don Doyle on "The Cause of All Nations"
- March 11: Bruce Kraig on "Why the Civil War Made our Modern Food"
- April 8: Greg Biggs on "Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy"
- May 13: Glenna Schroeder-Lein on "The Solders' Home in Civil War America"
- June 10: Dale Phillips on "Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans"

## Virtual Book Signing

Join the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop on December 5, at noon, when we welcome James "Bud" Robertson to the program. Bud talks about his new book *After the Civil War: The Heroes, Villains, Soldiers and Civilians Who Changed America*. Learn more about these books and order yours at [http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor\\_2](http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor_2).

## Quizmaster—Volunteers Wanted!

The CWRT is looking for a new Adjutant General, who will do the quiz at our monthly meetings. If you're interested, contact the president at [CWRTPresident@ChicagoCWRT.org](mailto:CWRTPresident@ChicagoCWRT.org).

## November 2015 Meeting—Talk Summary

### Philip Leigh - “Trading with the Enemy”

When most people think of the Civil War, their first thought may well be slavery and the cotton culture it created and sustained. Indeed, cotton created antebellum southern wealth; cotton in turn represented a significant economic interest at the north whose mills required this vital agricultural product. But even those of us who study secession and its ramifications may not consider the extent to which trade in cotton continued after hostilities commenced and the degree to which it contributed to the progress of the war. This was the theme explored by Phillip Leigh in his presentation, “Trading with the Enemy,” at the 746<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Round Table on November 13, 2015.

Leigh relates how trade in cotton between the sections persisted after the start of the war. Ships out of northern ports not subject to the blockade docked at Matamoros, Mexico at the rate of one per week whereas prior to the war there was only one such arrival annually. These ships sailed from northern ports and carried arms, munitions, equipment and clothing for southern armies. In exchange, the Confederacy shipped cotton from Arkansas, Louisiana, and East Texas shipped overland to Brownsville, Texas, from where it was moved across the Rio Grande.

Matamoros played only a minor role in intersectional cotton dealing. Twice as much cotton passed

through belligerent lines as eluded the blockade. The practice developed after the major cotton depots Memphis and New Orleans were captured in 1862. That summer, General Sherman complained that northern traders were buying southern cotton for gold which the south used for purchasing arms in Bermuda, and even Cincinnati. And General Grant captured Confederate cavalry armed with modern carbines purchased at Memphis.

Northern interests needed an intact union to sustain an emerging economic supremacy. Businessmen feared that without access to cotton from a seceded south and without the south’s favorable trade balance, the economies of the remaining states would collapse. The south needed trade as well; it relied on cash crops such as cotton and tobacco which created a need for northwestern grain and pork. Also, the south needed all types of manufactured goods which were available from the north.

As the war progressed, the need for cotton virtually dictated trade between the belligerents, especially when Lincoln learned he could sell cotton to Europe for gold. Thus while both sides maintained policies of interdiction, Jefferson Davis “looked the other way” out of necessity, while Lincoln ignored regulations on trade as a matter of policy. Part of this policy was to

ensure that England did not starve for cotton.

Leigh provided examples of those who engaged in the legally dubious, if not treasonous, ‘intersectional’ trade. The largest shareholder in a northern mill, General Butler amassed a huge fortune in the trade. Others profited from the Matamoros trade. Charles Stillman, a Texan with southern sympathies, became one of the richest men in America by selling cotton to the federal government for use in making uniforms. Perhaps the most notorious example of trading with the enemy was William Sprague, mill owner, Governor, and later Senator from Rhode Island, and son-in-law of Treasury Secretary and later Supreme Court Justice Salmon Chase, became ensnared in the Matamoros trade and narrowly avoided prosecution. And lest we forget, the Red River Campaign in 1864 was led by New Englander Nathaniel Banks, whose aim was to confiscate cotton but who succeeded only in depriving Sherman his best divisions and prolonging the war.

As Leigh concluded, there were no heroes in the history of trading with the enemy. Notwithstanding this truism, he has written an excellent account of this fascinating aspect of the war which should be mandatory reading for anyone who thinks the war to save the union was a glorious crusade.