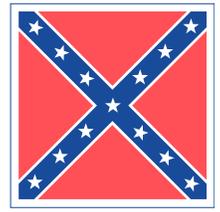


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May 2016



752ND REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, May 13th

★★★★★

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: Turkey or Tilapia

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Sunday, May 8, 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 FREE.

Glenna Schroeder-Lein on *The Soldier's Home in the Civil War*

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

During the Civil War, soldiers' homes (or soldiers' rests) were established by civilian aid groups north and south along major transportation routes. Their purpose was to provide for the needs of soldiers in transit between the field and their homes or other locations.

On May 13th Glenna Schroeder-Lein will look at the development and varying nature of some of these homes and how the civilians met their goals of soldier aid by providing food, lodging, and short-term medical care as the needs of soldiers coming through that location required.



Glenna Schroeder-Lein has authored or co-authored numerous books on the Civil War, including The Encyclopedia of Civil War Medicine, Lincoln and Medicine, Confederate Hospitals on the Move: Samuel H. Stout and the Army of Tennessee, Treasures of the Abraham Lincoln

Presidential Library, and The Papers of Andrew Johnson.

Since 2005 she's been Manuscripts

Librarian for the non-Lincoln manuscripts at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. She was assistant editor for the Papers of Abraham Lincoln project. She earned a B.A. and M.A. in history from Cal State Fullerton, and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Georgia.



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.



Mickey Martin from Easton, Penn., “called it a must see. Saw it when I was ten years old (and) at least 15 times when I brought people to visit Gettysburg. Some from Australia and Germany and many friends from my area. I’ll be 67 in May and would love to see it again. Thanks for the restoration. I can’t wait.”

Jim Doncaster, who grew up in York, Penn., but lives in Knoxville said “It’ll be great to have it up and running again. I was disappointed the NPS didn’t see fit to incorporate it into the new Visitors Center. I’ve seen it a few dozen times, many times on our frequent trips to the battlefield growing up and many times since when I’d bring others to Gettysburg. It was always the perfect way to orient people to the field before going out on it.”

The map is located at 22 Carlisle St. in Hanover, Penn. Updates on the project are available on Facebook pages: Gettysburg Electric Map in Hanover, Penn.

From May Civil War News

ELECTRIC MAP NEARS COMPLETION IN HANOVER

By Leon Reed

Hanover, Pa- For more than 50 years, a visit to the Electric Map was one of the essential first stops before a tour of Gettysburg. Within a few months, the flashing lights may once again be delighting visitors, though now they will have to travel 12 miles to nearby Hanover to see it.

The first electric map was installed in the private Rosensteel Museum in the 1930s. A newer and larger map was installed in 1963. Both maps used a series of flashing lights to illustrate the battle of Gettysburg as a narrator read a script. The National Park Service took over the Rosensteel Museum in 1971 and used it as its Visitor Center until the new one opened in 2008.

Despite occupying a place of honor in the old Visitor Center, the map did not make the cut to move over to the new Visitor Center, which opened in 2008. “(GNMP director at the time) Latschar hated it.” said former map operator Bernadette Loeffel-Atkins. “Latschar called it the ‘Electric Nap.’” The last Electric Map show was on April 13, 2008.

Scott Roland bought the 12-ton map for \$ 14,000 at auction in 2012. He hopes to open it as an attraction at a conference center in downtown Hanover.

“All I got was the map,” said Roland. “The control panels were gone, the wiring was shot, and there wasn’t even a script or a wiring diagram. We even had to figure out which segment represented which part of the battle to know how to reassemble

the map.”

Over the past three years, he and his team have removed asbestos and rewired and relit the entire map- a total of more than 800 bulbs and seven miles of wire. “The wiring was a nightmare,” said Roland. “We replaced all the lighting with LED bulbs and it will be much more efficient to operate.” The job is nearly done. In late February, 3 ½ of the four panels had been completely rewired and re-lit and they were beginning to work on connecting to the computer that will control the lights. He hopes to open “before the end of the school year”.

Roland emphasizes that many people have let him know how important it is to keep the “same look and feel” to the show. “I’m not going to spice up the show; it will be as close to the original as I can make it. I also kept the original lenses. Everything below the lenses is new, but it will look the same.”

Many people have expressed excitement upon hearing about the project. A sampling of quotes from a Facebook page.

Patricia Perry, now a History teacher in Virginia, said: “I loved the electric map on a school trip in elementary school!”

Sandy Dobson said “Our first stop in Gettysburg on our high school trip in 1979 was the map. I was mesmerized by it. That was the start of my Gettysburg fascination. Can’t wait to see it again.”

APRIL MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Greg Biggs gave an informative talk on “Nashville: The Siren’s Song of the Western Confederacy,” to the 751st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on April 8, 2016. Southern strategy in the Western Theater was fixed on retaking Nashville, which fell early in the war following the surrender at Ft. Donelson. Loss of the capitol exposed Tennessee to invasion in what Biggs terms “the biggest land grab of the war,” which effectively moved the south’s border from the Ohio to the Tennessee River. Five separate combinations mounted by different southern armies all failed to achieve this elusive goal.

The first attempt culminated in the Shiloh/Corinth Campaign when after retreating to northern Mississippi and being reinforced by Bragg, A.S. Johnson planned to defeat Grant at Pittsburg Landing, cross the Tennessee, and move on Nashville. The April 6, 1862, offensive at Shiloh failed to achieve its objective and saw the death of Johnson, and the consequent consolidation of northern armies commanded by Halleck precipitated Bragg’s evacuation of Corinth in June 1862.

Despite that setback, Bragg determined to hold northern Mississippi and push into western Tennessee; however, the enemy movement toward Chattanooga and Kirby Smith’s grand plan to invade Kentucky necessitated a change of base, dragging Bragg into the Bluegrass State. Biggs considers this movement, the largest by railroad

in the war, a strategy worthy of Napoleon or Frederick the Great. Bragg outmaneuvered Buell, but President Davis’ failure to appoint an overall commander and indecision on Smith’s part doomed the Kentucky incursion. Outnumbered at Perryville in October, and unable to move on a garrisoned Nashville, Bragg retreated to Murfreesboro. This move passed the ‘Wellington Test,’ according to Biggs: Bragg knew when to retreat. Nonetheless, this ended the second attempt to recover the fallen town.

Bragg’s army was augmented by Smith’s troops following the retrograde into Tennessee, but Stevenson’s Division’s transfer to Vicksburg put Bragg at a disadvantage in the third attempt to recapture Nashville. Biggs argues that these troops would have made the difference at Stones River, when Bragg planned to place his victorious army between a defeated Rosecrans and Nashville. When the January 1, 1863, attack failed, Bragg could no longer maintain a presence in Middle Tennessee.

With Bragg having first been maneuvered out of Tullahoma and then from Chattanooga in another ‘Frederick the Great/Napoleon’ maneuver, the Confederate high command decided on a bold combination. Longstreet’s Corps was transferred to Georgia where Bragg determined to crush Rosecrans’ widely separated corps, retake Chattanooga, cross the river, and march back into Tennessee. This fourth strategic

movement first met with success at Chickamauga, but floundered when Longstreet’s command left on the ill-fated Knoxville campaign. Bragg lost the initiative during the siege of Chattanooga and was routed at Missionary Ridge by the now reinforced union army under Grant.

The last campaign to restore the Confederate heartland was inspired by Davis’ exhortation to take the war to the gates of Nashville after Atlanta fell in September 1864. Unable to shake Sherman’s hold on Atlanta, John Bell Hood brought his army back to its namesake state. For Biggs this was a hopeless endeavor: Forrest’s Johnsonville raid was ineffective, whereas Grierson’s movement on the Mobile & Ohio deleteriously affected Hood’s logistics. The ‘siege’ of Nashville following the disaster at Franklin in late November was one only in name, and Hood’s demoralized army was only partially entrenched when the union onslaught struck on an icy December morning.

Biggs compares the south’s fixation on Nashville to Scylla and Charybdis of ancient mythology. Certainly, the effort to recover lost territory proved the undoing of the Army of Tennessee. But Middle Tennessee was strategically important and Nashville was the epicenter of the union logistical effort in the West. To say that the Confederacy was seduced by a false tune is difficult; however, a more defensive-minded strategy would have preserved this beleaguered army for more productive operations.

GRAPESHOT



On May 7, "First Ladies Tea: Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Kennedy," Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Kennedy, Laura Keyes and **Leslie Goddard** will bring Mary Todd Lincoln and Jacqueline Kennedy to life in an imagined meeting at the Smithsonian Museum's First Ladies exhibition, 1 p.m., \$35, (\$25 Friends of the Museum). Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653- 4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

On May 7th at 1 p.m., at the Oswego Township Cemetery in Oswego, there will be a veterans grave marker ceremony, sponsored by the SUV.

On May 15, at the Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI, Dave Powell will speak on "the Campaign and Battle of Stones River."

On May 12th, **Leslie Goddard** will speak on "Gone With the Wind" at the Blue Island Public Library. For more information, visit www.lesliegoddard.info.

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

May 4th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:
Gary Wright on "Booth's Final Days"

May 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT:
Mark Lause on "Price's 1864 Raid"

May 10th, McHenry County CWRT:
Gene Salecker on "Sultana Disaster"

May 12th, Milwaukee CWRT:
Glenna Schroeder-Lein on "The Soldiers Home in Civil War America"

May 12th, Lake County CWRT:
Jerry Kowalski will speak on "Bringing the Word to the Boys in Blue, Chaplains in the Recent Unpleasantness"

May 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT:
Joe Kahr on "General James Longstreet"

May 19th, South Suburban CWRT:
Bjorn Skaptason on "The Chicago Light Artillery at the Battle of Vicksburg"

May 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Frank Crawford on "The Centralia Massacre in Missouri, Sept. 27, 1864"

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 10: Dale Phillips on
"Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans"

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop

For those who have not seen the latest, it is true the shop on Chicago Avenue is closed—a result of an abrupt sale of the building and subsequent loss of our lease. We are viewing new spaces regularly. We have found a couple of very good prospects. However the nature of negotiations coupled with a volatile Chicago commercial real estate market have left us without a space temporarily.

We are actively posting new items at ALincolnBookShop.com and keeping in touch via our blog, Margin Notes here at the site as well as regularly posting on Facebook and Twitter.

CWRT Annual Election

The CWRT will hold its annual election of officers at the May meeting. The nomination committee is in the process of coming up with a slate of officers. As before, nominations from the floor are welcomed.