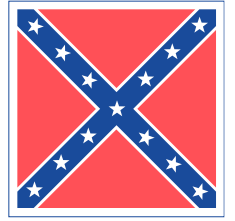


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIX, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 2018

Tim Smith on "U. S. Grant and the Vicksburg Campaign"



For nearly nine months, Ulysses S. Grant tried repeatedly to capture the Confederate river city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. He maneuvered and adapted numerous times, reacting to events and enemy movements with great skill and finesse as the lengthy campaign played out on a huge chessboard, dwarfing operations in the east.

On September 14th Dr. Timothy Smith will reexamine this familiar story. This reexamination is organized around Grant's eight key decisions during the campaign. Grant's nontraditional choices went against the accepted theories of war, supply, and operations as well as against the chief thinkers of the day, such as Henry Halleck, Grant's superior. Yet Grant pulled off the victory in compelling fashion. Smith shows how Grant's decisions created and won the Civil War's most brilliant, complex, decisive, and lengthy campaign.

Dr. Timothy Smith, Civil War author and historian, is a native of Mississippi but now resides in Tennessee, where he teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Smith received both BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Mississippi and a PhD from Mississippi State University in 2001. Pursuing his love of history, Smith worked for the National Park Service at the Shiloh National Military Park for seven years, where his interest in the Civil War was intensified. Dr. Smith is the author of numerous books, including Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg (2004), Mississippi in the Civil War (2010), and Shiloh: Conquer or Perish (2014). His most recent book is The Decision Was Always My Own: Ulysses S. Grant and the Vicksburg Campaign. Dr. Smith is currently finishing a book on Grierson's Raid.



774th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, September 14th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE
5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

**ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.**



PRESERVATION NEWS - CWRT DONATES FUNDS TO HELP PRESERVE OUR CIVIL WAR LEGACY

The CWRT's Battlefield Preservation Committee made almost \$5,000 in donations in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

The donations include:

Save Historic Antietam Foundation: \$500

U. S. Grant Association: \$500

Civil War Trust (Color Bearer): \$1,000

Save the Dalton Battlefields: \$500

Georgia Battlefields Association: \$1,000

Resaca Battlefield: \$1,000

A donation to the Sons of Union Veterans for the Rosehill Cemetery Veterans Day and Memorial Day events will be forthcoming.

As can be seen, everybody's donations are being put to good use!

American Battlefields Trust (aka Civil War Trust) News

"We have the remarkable opportunity to save 18 critical acres on Seminary Ridge, on the First Day's battlefield at Gettysburg! This is some of the most historically significant land at Gettysburg that is still in private hands. It is hallowed ground that witnessed the climactic scene of fierce, deadly fighting on July 1, 1863.

Here, in the late afternoon, Union troops made a final, desperate defense

of Seminary Ridge and were met with a renewed attack from the Confederates.

The famed Union Iron Brigade, along with one New York and six Pennsylvania regiments, tried to hold back North and South Carolinians in Alfred Scales and Abner Perrin's brigades. Four Union batteries that crowned the Ridge, including six fearsome Napoleon guns posted directly on a portion of the land we are trying to save, fired over the heads of the Union infantrymen with devastating effect on the advancing Confederates.

A captain in the Iron Brigade recalled later that infantrymen fired so fast their rifles became hot, and the smoke was so thick that it was as dark as night. Many wounded fell rapidly on both sides.

This land is some of the largest and most significant remaining unprotected acreage on Seminary Ridge. Remarkably, it is nearly unchanged from 1863. But we can't guarantee its future as open space until we permanently protect this hallowed ground.

We are asking for your help to save this historic treasure so future generations can better understand the Battle of Gettysburg, and ultimately understand the American Civil War.

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.

The price for this land is \$3.5 million. Due to its location, we are unable to apply for federal matching grants. We have to go this one alone. It is a big task, but if we have your help, we can preserve this land together and make history.

Please help save Seminary Ridge today. Donors who commit \$49 or more to this effort will receive a "I Helped Save Seminary Ridge" T-shirt as our thank you. Donors who commit \$100 or more will also appear on our new digital Roll Call of Honor display. Those who contribute \$200 or more will also have their names added to a physical donor-recognition sign at the nearby Lee's Headquarters donor recognition site, just across the Chambersburg Pike from this land."

For more information, visit <https://www.battlefields.org/give/save-battlefields/save-gettysburg>

POTPOURRI - KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM SYMPOSIUM

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum: Conquer or Perish-The Shiloh Campaign, Saturday, September 15. Registration 8:30 am. Programs Begin at 9:30 am. \$60/\$50 Friends of the Museum, Lunch Included.

Presentations:

Anatomy of an Icon: The Hornet's Nest at Shiloh by **Tim Smith**. This talk will examine the famous Hornet's Nest at Shiloh throughout its history, not just on April 6, 1862, but also in how it has been perceived in the American memory. It will examine the Hornet's Nest's importance, how and why it became so popular in the American public's mind, and when it gained such fame. It will also examine whether the attention showered on the Hornet's Nest is appropriate or whether it has been overemphasized.

Shiloh-What did it all Mean? by **Larry Daniel**. Daniel's program will not exam the tactics, but rather the meaning of it all. His thesis is that while later battles eclipsed Shiloh in body count, there was a uniqueness to Shiloh that has not always been appreciated.

Wisconsin and Shiloh by **Bjorn Skaptason**. Bjorn Skaptason's program will consider the ways in which the Battle of Shiloh affected the State of Wisconsin and how it is remembered today. Skaptason's lecture will cover the prebattle history and operations of the three

Wisconsin regiments--the 14th, 16th and 18th-- who fought at Shiloh. He will also relay the story of Wisconsin Governor Louis P. Harvey, who drown in the Tennessee River shortly after the battle while in the area bringing aid to wounded Wisconsin soldiers.

Shiloh- A Soldier's Battle by **Tom Arliskas**. Using a collection of notes and memories of the men, Tom Arliskas' program offers perspectives and research on the uniforms, clothing, and firearms of both the Confederates and the Union Armies that fought at Shiloh. For many Federal Regiments of the Old Northwest Territory, it would be their first time under fire. How they were dressed for battle, what firearms they carried, and how they fought will be presented in their own words and photographs. For the Confederates, how did an army outfitted with an assortment of outdated ordnance, muskets, flintlocks and conversion smooth bore muskets, shotguns, and the new Enfield Rifled muskets, dressed in donated "Great Appeal," clothing, half-military, half-civilian, in appearance-- ALMOST-- achieve a surprising victory? Arliskas' program will explain how these soldiers actually looked on the field of battle, what weapons they used, and how these factors helped determine the outcome of the Battle of Shiloh.

Information on all Civil War Museum

programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

NEW CWRT OFFICERS

At the June meeting, officers of the CWRT were elected for the 2018-2019 year. See the CWRT website for the list.

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

The next "Friday Lunch Box" event will be at noon on Sept. 14th, featuring Dr. James Pula speaking on "Reevaluating the Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg."

Longtime CWRT member **Richard Cohen** died over the summer.

Our friend and former CWRT president **Tom Trescott** will marry his **Melissa** Monday, September 10th, at the World Series Monument in front of his beloved Comiskey Park. Our best to the newlywed couple!

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2019 Battlefield Tour of Vicksburg will be May 2-5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel will be our guides--and you can't get better than those two! More information will be forthcoming.

GRAPESHOT



On Sept. 17th **Rob Girardi** will present “Illinois Fights the Civil War” to the Libertyville-Mundelein Historical Society. On September 20 he’ll speak on “The Grand Army of the Republic in Chicago” to the American Battlefield Trust. For more on his programs, visit <https://www.robertgirardi.com>.

Leslie Goddard will present “Louisa May Alcott” Sept. 6 at the Weyenberg Library, Sept. 12 at the Union Church of Hinsdale, Sept. 17 at the Thomas Ford Library, Sept. 18 at the Bloomingdale Public Library, Sept. 20 at the St. Charles Public Library, Sept. 21 at the Edgewater Library, Sept. 27 at Harper College, Sept. 29 at the Woodson Regional Library, and Sept. 30 at the Bloomington Public Library. September 2018 is the 150th anniversary of the publishing of Alcott’s finest novel, “Little Women.” For more information, visit her website at www.lesliegoddard.info.

On Sept. 29th, the semiannual **Civil War and Militaria Show** will return to the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton, featuring a performance by the **Battlefield Balladeers**.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Sept 9, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

Sept. 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

Bjorn Skaptasen on “National Military Parks”

Sept. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Susan Rosenvold on “Clara Barton’s Service to the Nation”

Sept. 11th, McHenry County CWRT:

Jack Hudson on “The Telegraph in the Civil War”

Sept. 11th, Southwest Michigan CWRT: Dennis Boggs on “President Lincoln’s Search for the Right General”

Sept. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Tim Smith on “U.S. Grant and the Vicksburg Campaign”

Sept. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Reg Ankrom portrays “Stephen A. Douglas”

Sept. 19th, Starved Rock CWRT in Ottawa: Ron Slack on “Big Bethel”

Sept. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Sam Blackwell on “The Ambush of the 8th PA Cavalry at Chancellorsville”

Sept. 27th, South Suburban CWRT: Rob Girardi on “Illinois and the Civil War”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Oct. 12th: Ted Karamanski, “The Civil War as an Indian War”

Nov. 9th: Paul Kahan on “The Presidency of Ulysses S. Grant: Preserving the Civil War’s Legacy”

Dec. 14th: David Hirsch and Dan Van Haften on “Abraham Lincoln and the Structure of Reason”

Jan. 11th, 2019: Bjorn Skaptasan on “Henry Morton Stanley at Shiloh”

Feb. 8th: Rob Girardi on “Gouverneur K. Warren’s Last Battle”

Mar. 8th: Horace Mewborn on “Col. Elijah White”

Apr. 12th: Brad Gottfried on “Maps of the Fredericksburg Campaign”

May 10th: John Horn on “The Petersburg Regiment: the 12th Virginia”

June 14th: Greg Biggs, “The Nevins-Freeman Address: Logistics of the Atlanta Campaign”

AUTHOR’S VOICE

No Civil War-related events this month

Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.