



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Ethan Rafuse on *'Back to the Chivalric Days of Yore': The Valley Campaign of 1862.*



In 1862, Union armies took the offensive throughout Virginia in an effort to win battlefield victories that, it was hoped, in conjunction with a policy of conciliation toward the people of the South, would bring the rebellion to an end by the end of the year. In the Shenandoah Valley, Federal forces initially

seized the upper hand, driving Confederate forces from Winchester to Harrisonburg.

In May, however, Confederate forces commanded by Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson took the offensive, taking advantage of Federal errors to win battlefield victories that turned the tide in the valley. In the process, Jackson's efforts helped dash Federal hopes for a quick end to the rebellion, which led to a

fundamental recasting of Union strategy.

On Nov. 8th Professor Ethan Rafuse will provide an account of Union and Confederate efforts in the Shenandoah Valley during the first half of 1862 and the strategic and operational context that shaped and was shaped by these operations.



786th REGULAR MEETING



Friday, November 8th, 2019



Holiday Inn O'Hare
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

Cocktails at 5:30 pm

Dinner at 6:30 pm

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTREE
BUFFET STYLE.

Ethan S. Rafuse is professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff

College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. His publications include Stonewall Jackson: A Biography and McClellan's War. In 2018-19 he was the Charles Boal Ewing Distinguished Visiting Professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

PRESERVATION NEWS

Dear Friend,

On October 14th, 1863, what had struck General A.P. Hill as a golden opportunity ended swiftly with 1,380 Confederate soldiers dead or wounded in the Army of Northern Virginia's most one-sided defeat in more than two years . . .

Hill's aggressiveness had served him well in many battles – but this particular opportunity wasn't what it seemed. As Hill attacked what he thought was the latter half of the last Union corps in line to cross Broad Run stream, Union General Gouverneur K. Warren, commander of the actual last corps in line to cross the stream, signaled his men to rise from the railroad embankment where they'd been hiding to overwhelm the Confederate attackers with firepower and sheer numbers.

After the Battle of Bristoe Station, Hill admitted, "I am convinced that I made the attack too hastily," but qualified this statement by adding that "a delay

of a half an hour, and there would have been no enemy to attack. In that event I believe I should have equally blamed myself for not attacking at once."

With Confederate numbers dwindling, Commander Robert E. Lee measured his response to the loss: "Well, well, General, bury these poor men and let us say no more about it."

Bristoe Station wasn't the biggest battle in Civil War history, but I hope you'll agree that its story is worth telling. Today, I'm writing with news of our own golden opportunity to help tell that story by preserving 118 acres of hallowed ground where it happened. Believe me, friend, we've done our reconnaissance, and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You see, these 118 acres – valued at over \$17.2 million – can be forever preserved for just \$29,000! If you're trying to do the math in your head, I'll save you the trouble: That's a \$539-to-\$1 match. To put those numbers in perspective, \$593-to-\$1 could get you \$150 worth

LEGEND

TROOP MOVEMENTS

- Confederate: Initial Position (Red)
- Union: Initial Position (Blue)
- 3:00 - 3:30 PM (Red)
- 3:30 - 4:30 PM (Red)
- 4:30 PM until Dark (Red)

LAND FEATURES & PRESERVATION

- 19th-Century Woodline
- 19th-Century Structures
- 19th-Century Roads
- 19th-Century Roads no longer in existence
- 19th-Century Fences
- Modern Roads
- Preserved by the American Battlefield Trust
- Preserved by other Organizations
- Target Property

Presented by the American Battlefield Trust

Updated September 2019

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST • •

CIVIL WAR BATTLE
BRISTOE STATION, VA
OCTOBER 14, 1863

Presented by the American Battlefield Trust

The historic battlefield is shown alongside modern efforts to preserve this land. Maps are available for download for personal use only at www.battlefields.org/maps.

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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.

of groceries for a quarter, or a \$24,000 car for forty bucks!

Ordinarily, I might not even write to you about a \$29,000 transaction, but this one is different. I thought you would want to be a part of the largest matching-grant opportunity in the Trust's history, and, given the many projects we are tackling this year at places like the Wilderness, Stones River, Cold Harbor, Perryville, and many more, and quite frankly, I could really use your help.

Please visit our website today to learn more about the history of this land and give as generously as you can to protect it. Thank you for all you continue to do for the cause of battlefield preservation – this important work wouldn't be possible without you.

'Til the battle is won,

Jim Lighthizer
President
American Battlefield Trust

BATTLEFIELD TOUR OF VICKSBURG

Here's a few photos of the CWRT's 2019 Battlefield Tour, courtesy of Ginny Procuniar:



GRAPESHOT



The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI, is hosting the following public programs and workshops this month:

2nd Friday Lecture Series, Friday, November 8, noon Richard Kane on "Thomas Jefferson's Wisconsin Civil War Connection"

Saturday, November 16, 1 p.m. Bruce Klem on "The First Wisconsin Cavalry and Kenosha's Camp Harvey"

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

Rob Girardi appearances in November include:

Nov. 9, Veterans Day at Union Ridge Cemetery, for the Old Glory SUV

Nov. 12, Lake County Genealogical Society: "The Changing Memory of the Civil War"

Nov. 21, Austin TX CWRT: "Gouverneur K. Warren's Last Battle; The General and the Historians"

For more on Rob, visit <https://www.robertgirardi.com/>

Leslie Goddard will speak on "Gone With the Wind" Nov. 26th at the Elk Grove Public Library. For more on Leslie, visit www.lesliegoddard.info.

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

Please Note

Make your Reservations by Sunday, Nov. 3, 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 LOCAL CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Nov. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Don Sender on "Colonel Chivington and the Sand Creek Massacre"

Nov. 4th, 2 Old Goats Market, Cedar Lake, IN: David Keller on "The Story of Camp Douglas"

Nov. 8th, Chicago CWRT: Ethan Rafuse on "The Valley Campaign of 1862"

Nov. 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Dave Powell on "Grant at Chattanooga"

Nov. 14th, South Suburban CWRT: Mary Abroe, "History, Role and Evolution of the American Battlefield Trust"

Nov. 14th, Pritzker Military Museum: Donald Miller on "Vicksburg"

Nov. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bill Shepherd on "Re-Electing Lincoln--How the 1864 Election Resulted in the Abolition of Slavery"

Nov. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Janet Croon on "The War Outside My Window"

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Dec. 13th: Daniel Weinberg on Musings of a Collecting Voyeur

Jan. 10th: Pam Toler on Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War

Feb. 14th: Connie Langum on Wilson's Creek

Mar. 13th: David Sutherland on VMI's Civil War Legacy

Apr. 17th: Michael Shaffer on Recollections of the 1st Virginia Cavalry

May 8th: Wil Greene on The Petersburg Campaign

June 12th: Brian Wills on George Henry Thomas

HOUSE DIVIDED

The next House Divided broadcast will be Nov. 13th, at noon, with Donald Miller discussing his new book, Vicksburg: Grant's Campaign That Broke the Confederacy. For more, visit alincolnbookshop.com.

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

October Meeting by Mark Matranga

Jim Lighthizer, President of the American Battlefield Trust and Nevins-Freeman award recipient for 2019, gave an informative talk to The Civil War Round Table at its 785th Regular Meeting on October 11, 2019. Passionate not only in seeking to preserve threatened historical sites but also providing his fellow citizens with an amazing array of educational resources, Lighthizer is an indefatigable leader in the preservation movement. He has now been at the helm of the Trust, and its predecessor organization Civil War Trust, for 20 years.

The Trust is the largest and most accomplished preservation group in the country, having saved land on 140 battlefields in 24 states. Originally founded as the Civil War Preservation Trust in 1999 with the merger of two groups, the Association for the Preservation of Civil War (APCWS) and the original Civil War Trust, the Battlefield Trust and its predecessors have saved over 52,000 acres of Civil War battlefields and Revolutionary War/War of 1812 sites during their 30 plus years of collective existence. In the 124 years since Congress established Chickamauga National Military Park in 1895, 85,000 acres of historic sites have been acquired by the federal government. The Battlefield Trust has matched 61% of this number! During Lighthizer's tenure, the Trust has saved the lion's share of this hallowed ground, approximately 44,000 acres, and under his leadership the Trust has raised 450 million dollars.

While justifiably proud of the success the Trust has achieved in preserving our physical heritage, Lighthizer is concerned that future generations may not grasp the significance of the history forged on our preserved battlefields. Citing the cautionary words of Jefferson, "A nation that expects to be ignorant and free expects something that never was and never will be," he announced the Trust's goal to be the premier site for acquiring knowledge of the Civil and Revolutionary Wars and the War of 1812. According to Lighthizer, the Trust is "getting there" with the Teachers Institute Scholarship Fund and its web site. Now with 6,000-7,000 pages of content, the site received 18 million visits last year. He pointed out the programs the Trust has developed to assist travelers in visiting historic sites. He highlighted the Liberty Trail, a developing project which will link multiple Revolutionary War sites in the Carolinas.

That more and better history education is needed is apparent, Lighthizer notes. Numerous studies reveal that undergraduates at prestigious universities are woefully lacking in knowledge of history. Twenty years ago, the American Council of Trustees gave a high school history test to students from the country's 50 top colleges; 81% received grades of D or F. The Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation administered the citizenship test (20 multiple choice questions) to 1,000 native born Americans. Of these, 64% failed: 84% of those under 24 failed; 74% of those 65 and older passed. Making these numbers intelligible, 30% of our top universities as ranked by U.S. News & World Report do not require history majors to take a United States history course. And per former Harvard President Drew Gilpin Faust, the number of history majors has declined 45%.

Ironically, polling shows that millennials like history: of 41,000 students surveyed by the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 40% stated history was their favorite subject while 39% considered it one of their favorites. But to no surprise, the Foundation found students considered history boring. Nonetheless, millennials appear to prefer experiences over objects, a finding Lighthizer considers an opportunity. He believes the Trust, through its web site, digital products, and applications, is at the 'intersection' for those looking for authentic experiences. The Trust

can tell the stories of what happened on our battlefields and why it matters to us today. Knowledge of history is a democracy's life insurance policy, Lighthizer concluded. We cannot appreciate our culture without a knowledge of our history. To that the Round Table can only say amen.

The Nevins-Freeman Award: A History

In 1974, The Civil War Round Table of Chicago established the Nevins-Freeman Award, and bestows it annually on an individual whose advancement of American Civil War scholarship and support for the Round Table movement warrant special recognition. The award itself is designed as a generous financial donation to a historical preservation project chosen by the recipient.

This award is named for two men whose legacies have come to be synonymous with the Civil War era: historians Alan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman.

The very first Nevins-Freeman recipient was famed author Bruce Catton, a Civil War Round Table of Chicago charter member. Other winners include Ralph G. Newman (1975), T. Harry Williams (1976), Ed Bearss (1980) and Bud Robertson (1981).

Past Nevins-Freeman Award Recipients:

1974: Bruce Catton	2000: Charles P. Roland
1975: Ralph G. Newman	2001: J. Brooks Davis
1976: T. Harry Williams	2002: Harold Holzer
1977: Lloyd D. Miller	2003: Jerry L. Russell
1978: Bell I. Wiley	2004: Terry Winschel
1979: E.B. (Pete) Long	2005: Richard McMurry
1980: Edwin C. Bearss	2006: Gordon Dammann
1981: James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr.	2007: Horace Mewborn
1982: Frank E. Vandiver	2008: Bruce Allardice
1983: John Hope Franklin	2009: Craig Symonds
1984: Richard B. Harwell	2010: Robert I. Girardi
1985: John Y. Simon	2011: A. Wilson Greene
1986: Harold M. Hyman	2012: Tom Schwartz
1987: James T. Hickey	2013: Lawrence Hewitt
1988: Robert K. Krick	2014: Jim Ogden
1989: Mark E. Neely, Jr.	2015: Dennis Frye
1990: Marshall D. Krolick	2016: Lance Herdegen
1991: Gary Gallagher	2017: John Marszalek
1992: Shelby Foote	2018: Greg Biggs
1993: Stephen B. Oates	
1994: Alan T. Nolan	2019: Jim Lighthizer
1995: Richard Nelson Current	
1996: James M. McPherson	
1997: Wiley Sword	
1998: William C. (Jack) Davis	
1999: David Herbert Donald	