



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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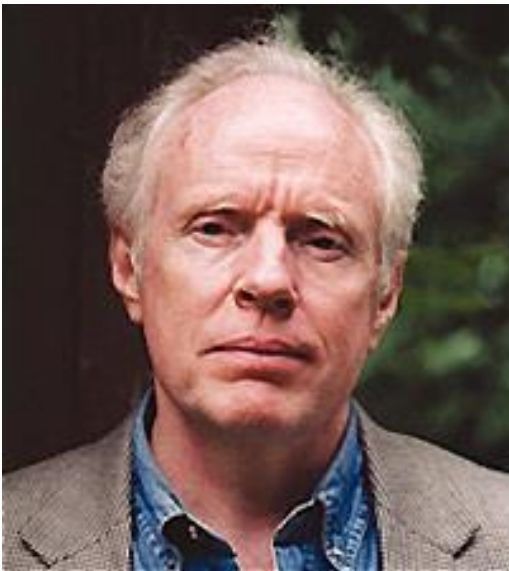
Chicago, Illinois

September 2020

794th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, September 11th, 2020

Fergus Bordewich on: *“Congress at War”*

NOTE: This meeting will be “virtual” (online, probably Zoom). Login Instructions will be sent to all members.



"Congress at War" tells the story of how the oft-maligned U.S. Congress helped win the Civil War—a new perspective that puts the House and Senate, rather than President Lincoln, at the center of the conflict. This perspective on the Civil War overturns the popular conception that Abraham Lincoln single-handedly led the Union to victory and gives us a vivid account of the essential role Congress played in winning the war.

Building a riveting narrative around four influential members of Congress—Thaddeus Stevens, Pitt Fessenden, Ben Wade, and the pro-slavery Clement Vallandigham—Fergus Bordewich shows us how a newly empowered Republican party shaped one of the most dynamic and consequential periods in American history. From reinventing the nation’s financial system to pushing President Lincoln to emancipate the slaves to the planning for Reconstruction, Congress undertook drastic measures to defeat the Confederacy, in the process laying the foundation for a strong central government that came fully into being in the twentieth century.

Fergus M. Bordewich is the author of eight non-fiction books, including CONGRESS AT WAR: How Republican Reformers Fought The Civil War, Defied Lincoln, Ended Slavery, And Remade America, (Alfred A. Knopf, 2020); AMERICA'S GREAT DEBATE: Henry Clay, Stephen A. Douglas, and the Compromise that Preserved the Union (2012); and BOUND FOR CANAAN: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America (2005). He lives in San Francisco, CA with his wife, Jean Parvin Bordewich.

Battlefield Preservation

From the American Battlefield Trust

Today, I have some very exciting news and a “reality check” on the battlefield preservation front. First, I’ll share the exciting part. Together, we have the opportunity to:

1. Save another crucial part of the [Shiloh Battlefield](#) in Tennessee (22 acres), where we are getting ever closer to being able to declare that battlefield completely saved;
2. Save a very large and significant part of the [Raymond Battlefield](#) in Mississippi (44 acres), part of the Vicksburg Campaign;
3. Preserve and restore the largest remaining and most important unprotected parcel of battlefield land at the [Vicksburg Battlefield](#) itself (33 acres)!

Unfortunately, residential and commercial development has already consumed much of the area surrounding the Vicksburg battlefield. Unless we take action today, the historical integrity of the Railroad Redoubt could soon be compromised by a residential subdivision or apartment complex.

Saving these 22 acres at the Shiloh Battlefield will allow public access to this crucial part of the battlefield for this first time since the battle.

I invite you to [visit our website to learn more about the history of these battles](#) and to view the details of the opportunities at each. I’ll give you the short of it: Thanks to matching funds from the Friends of Raymond and the federal government, 63% of the total funds needed to purchase these crucial properties has already been secured. We only need \$553,330 to get to the finish line to preserve this land forever – a \$2.70-to-\$1 match of your generosity for land worth nearly \$1.5 M!

Jim Lighthizer
President, American Battlefield Trust

Kenosha Museum Great Lakes Civil War Forum

The Great Lakes Civil War Forum, Saturday, September 12. In-Person Check-In 8:30am | Program Begins 9:30am. Register by September 9. Due to government-ordered restrictions, in-person attendance limited to 50 people.

During this annual forum, four renowned Civil War historians will consider decisions made by Union and Confederate military leaders at several of the most important campaigns of the Civil War: Antietam, Gettysburg, Chickamauga, and Petersburg. Presentations scheduled include:

“The Battle of Perryville,” by **Chris Kolakowski**

“‘Sir I Have No Division:’ Command Decisions and Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg,” by **Wayne Motts**

“Negley on Horseshoe Ridge,” by **Dave Powell**

“Grant, Lee, Butler and Beauregard at Petersburg: June 12-18, 1864,” by **Will Greene**

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

Virtual Civil War Events

The Congress of Civil War Round Tables is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures by some of the nation's leading historians.

The lecturers have all donated their time and talent for you. That's right! CWRT Congress is not paying them an honorarium.

With the above in mind, we suggest that you register for a couple lectures, take notes and ask some pertinent questions. Then, tell your friends about your experience and buy a couple books. That way, it's a win for the historian, a win for you and a win for your CWRT. Upcoming events include:

August:

ED LOWE - [THE FALL OF ATLANTA AND THE 1864 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION](#)

MICHAEL K. SHAFFER - [THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN](#)

CHRIS MACKOWSK **INTERVIEW** - [EMERGING CIVIL WAR](#)

THERESA KAMINSKI - [DR. MARY WALKER'S CIVIL WAR](#)

September

SCOTT MINGUS, SR. - [CONFEDERATE CALAMITY: JEB STUART'S CAVALRY RIGHT THROUGH YORK CO., PA](#)

PETER CARMICHAEL - [THE WAR FOR THE COMMON SOLDIER](#)

Visit <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html> to view the complete schedule and register.

2020 CWRT Battlefield Tour Cancelled!

The **2020 Battlefield Tour** of West Virginia has been cancelled, due to bus concerns. It is now scheduled for the first week in June, 2022. The 2021 Tour will be Fredericksburg, April 29-May 2.

Elections for CWRT Officers

Due to Covid-related shutdowns, the Executive Committee has decided to hold the annual election using online voting. Notice will be sent to all members.

BULLETIN BOARD



The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on a bunch of programs which can be watched on facebook:

Recovering the Voices of the Union's Midwest Irish

Friday, August 14 Noon. Presenter: Damian Shiels

The Wounding of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

Friday, September 11 Noon. Presenter: Dr. Gordon Dammann

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

A House Divided

Join us Aug. 27th at 3:30 CST when Daniel Weinberg talks with Carl Guarneri about his book, *Lincoln's Informer: Charles A. Dana and the Inside Story of the Union War*. On Sept. 16th, our friend Pete Cozzens will talk about his new book "Tecumseh and the Prophet."

These are Facebook Live events and will not be streamed here at the shop's website. Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.

Leslie Goddard has the following Civil War-related events upcoming: "Louisa May Alcott," Aug. 23rd for the Batavia Library and Sept. 26th for the Winnetka Library (both virtual); and "The Making of Gone with the Wind" Sept. 10th for the Northwest Indiana Community Art Association.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Due to government-ordered shutdowns, CWRT events are being cancelled or going online on an ad hoc basis. Contact the sponsoring organization for up to date details. Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT's website for additional coming events.

Aug. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Don Allison on "Hell on Belle Island"

Aug. 27th, South Suburban CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Mysteries of the CSS Hunley" (Zoom Presentation)

Sept. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Paula Zalar on "Death and Mourning During the Civil War"

Sept. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Scott Larimer on "Fort Sumter and other Civil War Forts"

Sept. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Fergus Bordewich, "Congress at War"

Sept. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Civil War Newspapers"

Sept. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Jerry Allen on "The Buzzard Regiment: The Story of the 8th Wisconsin"

Sept. 26th, DuPage Civil War Show (Cancelled)

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Note: As of now, the Oct.-Dec. meetings will be “online”

Oct. 8th: Stuart Sanders on *Perryville*

Nov. 12th: John R. Scales on *General Nathan Bedford Forrest*

Dec. 10th: Dave Powell on *Union Command Failure in the Shenandoah*

Jan. 8th, 2021: Jennifer Murray on *General George Meade*

Feb. 12th: Leslie Goddard presents *Clara Barton*

Mar. 12th: Greg Biggs, *The Nevin-Freeman Address*

Apr. 9th: Ron Kirkwood on *Too Much for Human Endurance: The Spangler Farm Hospitals*

May 14th: Michael Hardy on *General Lee's Immortals*

In-Person Meeting Details

Second Friday of each month, Holiday Inn O'Hare, 5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6:30

\$40---Members and Non-Members

Entrée: Buffet Style

Make your reservations by the Sunday before the meeting date, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or phoning 630-460-1865 with the name(s) of your party.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us or phone us at the above addresses.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the presentation at 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE.

Address all communications regarding this newsletter, or membership, to the editor, at editor@chicagocwrt.org.



Reminder: Stay healthy!