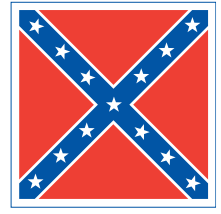


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 2012



708th REGULAR MEETING

Harry Bulkeley

as

“U.S. Grant”

★★★★★

Friday, February 10

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$45 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Chicken Piccata,
Baked Orange Roughy,
Vegetarian Plate or
Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 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 call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Harry Bulkeley

as

U.S. Grant: “I Propose to Fight it Out”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Ulysses S. Grant demonstrated what might be called the Peter Principle in reverse: he couldn't handle small jobs, but give him a huge task like saving the Union, and he performed marvelously well.

Grant's story is one of great abilities, hidden and undiscovered until a vast war brought them out. And not merely abilities as a general. His memoirs, completed just prior to his death, are rightly regarded as one of the best memoirs ever written by a historical figure.

“I Intend to Fight It Out” is a one-man show presented by Harry Bulkeley as General Ulysses S. Grant. It opens with Grant working on his memoirs shortly before his death. He narrates episodes in his life, changing uniforms as the story unfolds. Bulkeley says he tries to provide an insight into Grant as a man. “For too many people, General Grant has become a caricature. My presentation tries to explain more about the man himself. He was during his life perhaps the most admired living American of the 19th century. I want the audience to know why.”

Harry Bulkeley and his wife Barbara live in an old Victorian house a



Harry Bulkeley

block and a half from where he was born in Galesburg, IL. Five years ago he retired after serving as a Circuit Court judge for 24 years. Since retirement, they have spent time traveling, including visiting their three daughters who live in New York City, Washington, D.C. and San Francisco.

Judge Bulkeley has always been interested in the Civil War. About fifteen years ago he developed an interest in Grant. “I grew a beard for the

first reenactment I ever attended—as a Confederate!” When I got home, I was reading a biography of the general when I noticed the physical resemblance.”

After portraying Grant at several national events, Bulkeley appeared as the title character in “Ulysses Grant: Warrior-President” for the PBS series American Experience. A few years later he was in “Sherman's March” on The History Channel. This spring, he will be Grant in the new film for the visitors' center at the Shiloh National Battlefield Park.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

The creation of Shiloh National Military Park

The idea of establishing a park at Shiloh began in 1893 when veterans formed the Shiloh Battlefield Association. The Army of Tennessee veterans desired a park to commemorate their actions in the war and to preserve the entire battlefield. Shiloh, far from any big city or major transportation route, except the Tennessee River, did not fit the mold of Gettysburg, Chickamauga and Chattanooga and Antietam.

The Shiloh Battlefield Association used donations from each member of the 12,000 man association, almost all from the enlisted ranks, to help fund this venture. Many prominent men who had fought at the battle of Shiloh supported the association such as Major General John A. McClernand, Benjamin Prentiss, Lew Wallace and Don Carlos Buell. The group also named prominent Confederates to the list, including former generals Basil Duke and Joseph Wheeler, and former Tennessee governor and staff officer Isham G. Harris, a Democrat in the United States Senate. This list of commanders from both North and South demonstrated the reconciliation of the times that drove the Shiloh conservation movement. Their main goal was to persuade Congress to fund the venture. The author of the legislation from Congress was Iowa representative David B. Henderson.

David B. Henderson was a Shiloh veteran and member of the House, serving as Judiciary Committee chairman and later as Speaker of the House. The creation of the Shiloh National Military Park was a personal quest for Henderson. Henderson's brother Thomas, killed at Shiloh, lay buried at Shiloh National Cemetery. With no formalized process from Congress to oversee the preservation

of battlefields Henderson asked for help from Henry V. Boynton, a leader on the subject of battlefield preservation from his work on the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Henderson, with the help of Henry Boynton, crafted a bill creating the Shiloh National Military Park. The secretary of war would have authority over the park and a three man commission would carry on the day-to-day governmental affairs at Shiloh. The bill stipulated that each commissioner should be a veteran of the Civil War and a veteran of the armies that fought at Shiloh, and one commissioner would be named from each army. This arrangement would maintain the ratio of two Union commissioners and one Confederate, as established at Chickamauga. Shiloh National Military Park became a reality on December 27th 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law.

Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont appointed the commission soon after Congress established the park. Lamont named Cornelius Cadle of the 11th Iowa Infantry to head the commission, and Don Carlos Buell and Robert F. Looney, former colonel of the 38th Tennessee Infantry, to round out the commission. The Secretary of War appointed Shiloh historian and veteran of the 12th Iowa David W. Reed as historian. The road engineer at Chickamauga, Atwell Thompson, became chief engineer. The three-way communication between Cadle, Reed and Thompson dominated the establishment of the Shiloh National Military Park.

Reed would use the Official Records as a source for the history of the battle. He also obtained the oral histories from the veteran reunions at Shiloh to clarify any confusion

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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.

in battle reports. Reed visited with former higher-ranking officers who were helpful in locating positions and clearing up misunderstandings in the reports.

Reed dominated the decisions on the design and placement of the tablets marking the field. He decided the colors, wrote the inscriptions, and marked the positions. Reed would establish the first permanent interpretive scheme at the park. The Reed maps of the battlefield and the official commission history still stand as basic sources for the understanding the battle of Shiloh. Reed's book published in 1902, The Battle of Shiloh and the Organizations Engaged, created the dominant historical interpretation of the battle of Shiloh. Reed would later serve as chairman of the Shiloh commission and be called the "Father of the Shiloh National Military Park." In 1933 the Shiloh National Military Park was transferred to the National Park Service.

For information on donating money to save Shiloh please check the www.civilwar.org website. The current campaign is to save 267 acres of the Fallen Timbers battlefield at Shiloh.

January Talk

BY MARK MATRANGA

Parker Hills addressed the 707th meeting of The Civil War Round Table on January 13, 2012, on how command relationships affected the outcome of the Chickamauga/Chattanooga campaign. These relationships developed at West Point, during the Mexican War and in the initial campaigns to control the Mississippi and the 'heartland' of the Confederacy.

The Grant-Sherman relationship which grew out of the Shiloh and Corinth campaigns was the most important of these. Sherman was willing to "waive rank" and supported Grant after Shiloh, when Grant was being savaged in the press and had been effectively demoted by General Halleck, who took field command of the combined army before Corinth and made Grant a supernumerary 'second in command.' Grant felt little more than an observer and intended to leave the army, but Sherman persuaded him to stay, with fateful consequences for both.

With Halleck called to Washington in the summer of 1862, Grant was restored to command. This did not bode well for General Thomas, who had been appointed to command Grant's army during the Corinth campaign. General Rosecrans also came under scrutiny for a less than stellar performance at Iuka and for failing to pursue Van Dorn after the battle of Corinth. Perhaps more important, Grant suspected Rosecrans was the source of leaks regarding Grant's alleged drinking problem. Rosecrans was saved from being relieved when he was appointed to command the Army of the Cumberland.

Having lost a considerable numbers of seats in the 1862 mid-term elections, Lincoln felt it imperative to go on the offensive on all fronts. The immediate results of this policy produced over 27,000 casualties. After Stones River, Bragg withdrew to Tullahoma, buying Lincoln time with the people and the press. But while Grant and Hooker had been reinforced, and took the offensive in May 1863, Rosecrans did not. Rosecrans finally moved in August, maneuvering Bragg out of Chattanooga and into north Georgia.

On the Confederate side, General Bragg had been criticized for retreating from Tennessee and stated he would resign if he did not possess the confidence of his subordinates. When his generals did not support him, President Davis sent General Johnson west to relieve Bragg, but Johnson declined to take command. Thus, the Confederate command structure was in disarray at the time of the Battle of Chickamauga.

Longstreet reinforced Bragg before Chickamauga with two divisions. While the additional manpower was helpful, Longstreet had command designs of his own and worked to unseat Bragg. Meanwhile, two corps under Hooker and elements of Sherman's army moved to relieve Chattanooga. Rosecrans failed to impress Assistant Secretary of War Dana who was also assigned there: he called Washington politicians "bums" and acted like "a stunned duck" following the debacle at Chickamauga. Thus, when Grant was given the discretion to keep or replace Rosecrans with Thomas, the choice was not neces-

sarily a happy one. An observer at Thomas' headquarters, Colonel James Wilson, found "both looking glum." Grant still harbored disaffection dating back to the Corinth campaign.

Matters were worse on the Confederate side. Bragg decimated his command, sending Polk and Hindman to Atlanta, and D.H. Hill to Richmond, and leaving Forrest without a command by transferring most of his troops to General Wheeler. Davis conferred with Longstreet and General Cheatham after a petition was circulated requesting Bragg's removal. Both advised dismissing Bragg, but Davis affirmed him in command, nonetheless. Cheatham left the army, while Longstreet was detached to lead the ill-fated Knoxville campaign. Thus, as Thomas was being reinforced, Bragg was breaking up his army. For Hills, an important factor in Davis' decision to retain Bragg was the relationship they had forged in the Mexican War.

Grant was able to use his generals' strengths and cobble together an effective command. Bragg fought well, but he was stubborn and not well-served by poor subordinates. Most important, he lost his nerve after Chickamauga, feeling he had lost when he had, in fact, won. According to Hills, he was "a good dog howling on his hind legs before Chattanooga, a fortified town." Bragg was perhaps the prime example of a civil war commander who faced "bayonets front and back." Hills' study suggests that the most successful generals were those who best kept their eyes focused in both directions.

GRAPESHOT



The annual **Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium** will be held Feb. 11-12 in Springfield. Speakers include Dr. Ethan Ra-fuse from the Army Staff Col-lege, Professors Chandra Man-ning, James Oakes, and Howard Jones. Reservations can be made online at www.abrahamlincol-nassociation.org or by calling (866) 865-8500.

On Feb. 21st **Bruce Allardice** will speak on "Lincoln as War Leader" at the South Holland Historical Society

On Feb. 12th **Max and Donna Daniels** will present "An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln" at the Naper Settlement in Naperville.

Aurora University is hosting an exhibit on "Lincoln: The Con-stitution and the Civil War" through Feb. 17th. As part of this exhibit the university will be having historian **Doris Kearns Goodwin** in to speak Feb. 7th. Visit www.auartsandideas.com for details.

Check the **Announcements** sec-tion of the CWRT's website for additional coming events.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publi-cations? All members are welcome to contrib-ute 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 histori-ans are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, 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 preserva-tion. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Upcoming Civil War Events

- Feb. 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Don Goin on "The Sultana"
- Feb. 1st, Lake County CWRT: Gene Wells on "The Battle of Pea Ridge"
- Feb. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Paula Walker** on "Major General G. K. Warren"
- Feb. 4th, Kenosha Civil War Mu-seum: "Offensive and Defensive Tactics of the Civil War" by Steve Acker. Visit www.thecivilwarmu-seum.org for more details.
- Feb. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dave Wege on "Patrick Cleburne"
- Feb. 12th, Kenosha Civil War Mu-seum: "Grant's Fort Henry/Donel-son Campaign" by Dan Nettesheim
- Feb. 14th, McHenry County CWRT: Kathy Grey on "The Grimke Sis-ters"
- Feb. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Leslie Goddard** as "Mary Chesnut"
- Feb. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Car-oline Janney on "Ladies Memorial Associations"
- Feb. 23rd, South Suburban CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Lee's First Inva-sion: Antietam"

Reminder: 2012 Tour
(Chickamauga/Chattanooga)
May 3-6, 2012

2013 Tour - Antietam

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

Feb. 10: Harry Bulkeley, "I Propose to Fight it Out"

March 9: A. Wilson Greene, "Nevins-Freeman Address"

April 13: Marshall Krolick, "Riding for the Union: 8th Illinois Cavalry Troopers"

May 8: Bruce Holden Reid, TBA

June 8: Dennis Frye, "Antietam"

The Illinois Civil War Sesqui-centennial website (www.illinois-civilwar150.org) is seeking papers for posting on its website. Articles should be aimed at the general public, and be from 700-1500 words in length.

The Galena Methodist Church will be celebrating **General Ulysses S. Grant's** birthday with a special service on Sunday, April 22nd. President and Mrs. Grant will be in their usual pew. On the Saturday prior to this event, the **Lincoln Death Day Ceremony** will take place at Oakwood Cemetery in Springfield. A luncheon will follow, featuring Dave Corbett's musical delectations.

REMINDER—The 2012 tour is com-ing up. Visit the website to download the registration form!