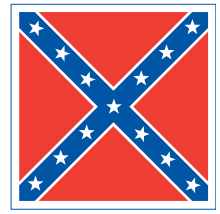


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIV, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 2013



## 724th REGULAR MEETING

William Cooper

on

“We Have the War Upon Us”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, October 11

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$47 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée: Chicken Aegean.*

*Baked Tilapia.*

*Vegetarian Plate or*

*Fruit Plate*

### Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Oct. 9, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 \$12 with a validated parking sticker.*

## William Cooper

on

## “We Have the War Upon Us”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

From the Constitutional Convention of 1787 down to 1860, sectional compromise had been a hallmark of the nation. On several volatile occasions political leaders had crafted solutions to vexing problems dividing North and South. During this 1860 post-election crisis many Americans assumed that once again a political compromise would settle yet another dispute.

But all Americans did not view this crisis from the same perspective. Strutting southern fire-eaters drove to break up the Union. Crowing about their electoral triumph, certain Republicans evinced little concern about the threatened dismemberment of the country. Still others – northerners and southerners, anti-abolition and pro-abolition alike – strove to find an equitable settlement that would maintain the Union whole.

On October 11th Professor William Cooper will focus on why the pro-compromise forces lost, or why the American tradition of sectional compromise failed. We now know that the Civil War, with its far-reaching consequences, took place, but as Professor Cooper will point out, contemporaries could not foresee whether a war would occur, or if it did, predict its outcome.

**William J. Cooper** is a Boyd Professor at Louisiana State University. A native of



William Cooper

South Carolina, he received his A.B. degree from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. Professor Cooper has spent his entire professional career on the faculty of Louisiana State University, where he also served as dean of the Graduate School from 1982 to 1989. He is also a past president of the Southern Historical Association and a Fellow of the Society of American Historians.

He is the author of numerous books, including The Conservative Regime: South Carolina, 1877-1890 (1968); The South and the Politics of Slavery, 1828-1856 (1978);

Liberty and Slavery: Southern Politics to 1860 (1983); and Jefferson Davis, American (2000), which received the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Biography and the Jefferson Davis Award from the Museum of the Confederacy. This talk will be based on his latest book, We Have The War Upon Us: The Onset of the Civil War, November 1860-April 1861 (2012). He has also edited or co-edited five books and written numerous articles.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

### The Battle of Richmond, Ky.

By Phillip Seyfrit

For nearly 150 years, the Battle of Richmond, Ky., began with a prepositional phrase: "By the way" Examples: "By the way, did you know the Confederates whipped the Yankees here?" "By the way, the Battle of Richmond, Ky., was the second largest Civil War battle in Kentucky." But that has all begun to change. The Battle of Richmond was barely a footnote in not only Kentucky's Civil War history, but also in the overall Civil War timeline.

The battle fought on Aug. 29&30, 1862, saw Confederate Gen. Edmund Kirby Smith and his 7,000 somewhat experienced but poorly supplied band of soldiers thrash a newly raised similarly sized Federal army under the command of Maj. Gen. William " Bull" Nelson. When the day-long three-stage fight in 90-plus degree drought stricken heat was over, Nelson's army ceased to exist. No, they didn't escape; they didn't exist.

And the Confederates would go on to capture Lexington and the commonwealth's capital of Frankfort. But hopes for winning Kentucky for the Confederate cause would be dashed at the Battle of Perryville six weeks later, and the boys in butternut would return back to Tennessee.

But who would even care that a ragtag Confederate army, operating under a less than well-known general, would move into the Bluegrass State and annihilate a slightly larger Federal army?

Some people at Richmond did. In 2001, nothing other than four Kentucky historical markers told the story of the Battle of Richmond. Then the dreaded sign went up that said "Absolute Auction." A 60-acre tract, with an 1824 home known as Pleasant View

that witnessed the battle and served as a hospital, went on the block.

On a November morning in 2001, a group of concerned individuals put their name on the dotted line, and "bought the farm." Even with a bulldozer sitting ready to demolish the house and pervert the property into a subdivision. The resurrection/resuscitation of the battlefield at Richmond, Ky., had begun.

The Madison County Historical Society bought the property, and approached the Madison County Fiscal Court with an idea to begin a county park system, with the new Richmond Battlefield Park being its flagship. ...

Mainly through Federal grants, over two dozen interpretive signs have been installed over the entire 12-mile battlefield corridor, with more to come. Then something unexpected happened. A telephone call from the United States Army.

A significant portion of the first phase of the Battle of Richmond was fought on what became an ammunition storage facility known as the Blue Grass Army Depot, which was established just prior to World War II. ... And the army didn't want it anymore. Through the concerted efforts of officials in Richmond and Washington, D.C., the Adams Rogers House (called Quarters 29 by the Army) was transferred to Madison County government in 2005. The home was rehabilitated and now houses the Battle of Richmond Visitors Center, which opened in October 2008.

The center features a one-of-a kind laser topographical map that explains the Battle of Richmond in 21st century technology methods. To date, it is the only map of its type at any American Civil War battlefield.

## 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.

Other amenities of the center are videos, artifacts and a flag display to educate visitors who come to experience the Civil War in Kentucky. Guests leave with a better understanding of this battle, while they walk on the same square-headed nailed floor that the soldiers did.

Visitors can also gaze into the eyes of soldiers who fought at Richmond, for the walls are lined with images of those fathers, sons, brothers and cousins, both blue & gray, who fought, and died, at this battle. ...

In addition to the 60 acres (plus or minus) that make up Richmond Battlefield Park, Richmond has also been able to save nearly 550 additional acres of battlefield land in 12 short years. Hopefully more critical acreage will be preserved soon. Another 400 acres located on the Blue Grass Army Depot is also protected.

Those who want to join in the preservation and interpretative efforts at Richmond are encouraged to join the Battle of Richmond association.... For more information about the Battle of Richmond, please call (859) 624-0013, or visit battleofRichmond.org.

From the September *Civil War News*

## September Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

**John Michael Priest** addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 723rd meeting on September 13, 2013. 'Mike' Priest takes a soldiers'-eyed perspective on Civil War history which relies on the observations and memories of those who experienced Civil War battles and campaigns. He has used this to great effect in his studies of the Maryland Campaign and its climax at Antietam in September 1862.

Fresh from victories in the summer campaigns on the Peninsula and at Second Manassas, the Confederate high command determined to take the war to the north. Although some questioned the legality of the move across the Potomac, Priest maintained that Lee could not have done so without higher authority.

But the army that crossed the river at White's Ford was not the disciplined force its reputation would lead us to believe. Rather, desertion was rampant; it was sick and starving due to poor supply and a diet of raw corn. When the order went out that the sick, wounded and those without shoes did not have to cross the Potomac, 3rd Virginia Cavalry observers reported infantrymen tossing their footwear into the river – they objected to turning the war into one of aggression. Others simply melted away, only to return once the army returned to Virginia. Those that remained were “ragged and crusty” even by contemporary standards. Southern cavalry was inferior as well, according to Priest. In

nine of the ten cavalry skirmishes fought between September 5th and 15th, the northern mounted arm bested southern cavaliers.

The rebels entered Maryland as liberators, but the civilians who observed them were not impressed. Lee hoped to recruit some of the thousands who southern intelligence predicted would flock to southern ranks, but this did not materialize. The decrepit state of southern soldierly was one factor in the populace not embracing the cause, the arrogance of the rebels accustomed to winning battles another. More important, western Maryland was unionist; Lee was surprised by the unenthusiastic reception his army received.

By the time Lee turned to fight, his army had dwindled to some 40,000. Opposing it was a host of 87,000 under General McClellan. Priest argues that despite finding Order 191 that McClellan did not move with dispatch, waiting 18 hours to act on them. Meanwhile, Priest advanced the theory that Lee was already retreating when he departed Frederick on September 10th. Dividing the army to reduce the Harper's Ferry garrison fit this purpose – to secure his line of retreat back to Virginia.

When the armies met at South Mountain, Lee was vastly outnumbered and was forced to retreat after a full day's battle. After these actions, northern ranks that left blankets at the foot of the mountain felt warm with confidence despite cold

temperatures overnight up in the gaps.

Priest surmises that Lee may not have had more than 30,000 effectives at Antietam. After the war, Lee wrote General Jackson's widow that he gave battle because he could not return to Virginia 'whipped.' His stand at Antietam transformed Lee from the 'King of Spades' into 'Marse Robert,' the general who held the union army in contempt.

From debunking the Barbara Fritchie myth – she was asleep at the time Mary Quantrell, the infamous guerrilla's niece, waved the flag at confederates marching through Frederick – to relating General Reno's mortal wounding by fire from the 35th Massachusetts at Fox's Gap, Priest fleshed out fascinating details of the campaign. Not the least of these was the observation of Dr. Louis Steiner who described some 3,000 black soldiers, armed and outfitted, marching through Frederick with the confederate army. The Round Table thanks 'Mike' Priest for presenting his unique perspectives on the nature, purposes and outcome of the 1862 Maryland Campaign.



Ed Joyce of St. Charles, Illinois, has contacted the CWRT regarding his collection of signed artwork by Dale Gallon, noted Civil War artist, and others. He's looking to sell these items. Anyone interested contact Ed at [ewj@freightescape.com](mailto:ewj@freightescape.com).



## GRAPESHOT



The 16th Annual **Civil War Symposium at Cantigny** will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013. The theme of the symposium is "1863: The Tide of War Turns." The fine list of presenters include our own Robert Girardi, speaking on "The Union High Command at Chancellorsville." **No registration fees** will be charged for this year's Civil War Symposium. See the insert for more information on this event.

On Oct. 5th, at the Scottish-American Society of Chicago, **Bruce Allardice** will present "Chicago's Scots in the Civil War". This event is not open to the general public.

**Larry Hewitt**, our Nevins-Freeman Awardee for this year, will be speaking on "Civil War Myths" to the Louisville CWRT Oct. 12th. Larry will speak on "Port Hudson" at the Pamplin Park Symposium Oct. 18th-20th.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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

- Oct. 2nd, Lake County CWRT: Don Jarrett on "Becoming a Reenactor"
- Oct. 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Smith on "Curious Practices of Naming U.S. Posts"
- Oct. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Terry Winschel on "The Vicksburg Campaign"
- Oct. 11th, Civil War Museum in Kenosha: Pete Skelly on "Lincoln in Wisconsin"
- Oct. 12th, South Suburban CWRT: Field Trip to Chicago History Museum
- Oct. 15th, Flagg Creek Historical Society: Leslie Goddard as "Mary Chesnut"
- Oct. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Max & Donna Daniels, "Abe and Mary Lincoln Press Conference"
- Oct. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Harold Knudsen on "James Longstreet"
- Oct. 18th, McHenry County CWRT: Dave Noe on "Sherman's March"
- Oct. 19th, Daughters of the Union in Naperville: Leslie Goddard as "Mary Chesnut"
- Oct. 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Jill Silbert on "Women in Camp"

## 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*.

Nov. 8: Lawrence Hewitt, Nevins-Freeman Address

Dec. 13: Kevin Weddle, "Lincoln's Tragic Admiral"

Jan. 20, 2014: Rob Girardi, "The Murder of General William 'Bull' Nelson"

Feb. 14: Harold Knudsen, "General Longstreet"

March 14: TBA

April 11: Scott Bowden, "Last Chance for Victory"

May 9: Dan Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

June 13: Kenneth Noe, "The War in Appalachia"

### Newberry Library to Host Civil War Exhibit

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the US Civil War and in conjunction with the Terra Foundation for American Art, the Newberry Library will mount "Home Front: Daily Life in the Civil War North," an exhibition of more than 100 items that focuses on the enormous, and costly, effect the war had on civilians.

Highlights of the exhibition include stunning paintings by Winslow Homer, Frederic E. Church, and other American artists of the period; first editions by Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Louisa May Alcott; and magazine illustrations that depict the changing roles of women and children who supported the war effort.



## 150 YEARS AGO – OCTOBER 1863



- 3rd:** President Lincoln calls for a national day of Thanksgiving at the end of November.
- 5th:** Joe Wheeler cuts the railroad supplying Chattanooga. The loss is a major blow to the besieged Army of the Cumberland.
- 5th:** A torpedo attack on the USS New Ironsides by the CSS David in Charleston Harbor damages the ship, but the New Ironsides remains on duty, without repair until May, 1864.
- 6th:** President Davis heads south from Richmond on a trip to South Carolina and North Georgia.
- 9th:** Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia crosses the Rapidan in an attempt to outflank the Army of the Potomac.
- 13th:** President Davis approves Braxton Bragg's request to relieve Major General Daniel Harvey Hill of duty.
- 13th:** Peace Democrat Clement Vallandigham is defeated by Unionist John Brough, a war Democrat running on the Republican ticket, in the election for Governor of Ohio.
- 14th:** Battle of Bristoe Station. A.P. Hill strikes George Meade as he withdraws to the Rappahannock River. Meade had strongly fortified his rear guard defenses, easily repelling Hill's corps.
- 14th:** As Ulysses S. Grant travels to Louisville, KY, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton heads west with orders for him to assume command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.
- 19th:** In an all-cavalry battle, J.E.B. Stuart [CS] routed Judson Kilpatrick [US] in the battle of Buckland Mills (sometimes called the Buckland Races)
- 19th:** William Rosecrans is relieved of duty. General Grant replaces him as commander of the Army of the Cumberland with George Thomas
- 21st:** Ulysses S. Grant leaves Bridgeport, AL to assume command of the troops in Chattanooga.
- 23rd:** Ulysses S. Grant arrives in Chattanooga, Tennessee and immediately begins working on securing a better supply line to the city.
- 24th:** General Grant, in Chattanooga, approves the plan of "Baldy" Smith to open a "Cracker Line" between Chattanooga and the railhead at Stevenson, Alabama
- 25th:** Battle of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
- 27th:** Battle of Brown's Ferry. Union troops under William Hazen secured a beachhead on the southern bank of the Tennessee River.
- 28th:** General O. O. Howard reaches Brown's Ferry, Tennessee from Stevenson, AL, opening the famous Cracker Line
- 29th:** Battle of Wauhatchie. In a rare nighttime assault, Confederates battle Union troops just west of Lookout Mountain
- 29th:** First supplies along the Cracker Line reach Chattanooga
- 29th:** Jefferson Davis grants Nathan Bedford Forrest's request for an independent command in north Mississippi and west Tennessee. This frees him from Braxton Bragg.

## Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha Event

On Tuesday, Nov. 5th, **Ed Bearss** will speak on **The Significance of Gettysburg and Vicksburg**.

**Dinner and program (dinner at 6pm) \$35 (\$30 FOM)**

**Program only (program at 7:30pm) \$15 (\$10 FOM)**

What better way to spend Veterans Day than with Ed Bearss, former chief historian of the National Park Service. Bearss discusses the lasting importance of the Gettysburg and Vicksburg campaigns. Bearss, a nationally-known author, lecturer, and battlefield guide, returns to the Civil War Museum to share his encyclopedic knowledge of these two campaigns in a style that is truly unique.

Participants can attend the dinner and program or the program only. A catered dinner in the Museum's Fitzgerald Gallery precedes the program.

## Cantigny Symposium

The 16th Annual **Civil War Symposium at Cantigny** will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013, starting at 9 a.m. The theme of the symposium is "1863: The Tide of War Turns."

**No registration fees** will be charged for this year's Civil War Symposium, however participants still must register for this event. Boxed lunches are not available, although attendees can bring along a lunch, take advantage of Cantigny's two fine restaurants, or drive off-site for fast food or other restaurant options in the area.

The speakers and presentations include:

**Michael Ballard**, Mississippi State University

*Atrocities at Milliken's Bend: U.S. Grant, Racism, and the Siege of Vicksburg.*

**James Downs**, Connecticut College

*Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War.*

**Robert Girardi**, Independent Scholar

*The Union High Command at Chancellorsville.*

**Stephen Towne**, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

*Fighting Desertion and Disloyalty: The Rise of Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest in 1863.*

The Soldiers' Encampment and outdoor activities are free to the public and continue through Sunday, October 6, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

To register, or for more information, contact the National Archives at Chicago at:

Phone: (773) 948-9001

E-mail: [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov)