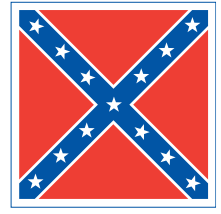


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIV, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March 2014



729th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, March 14

★★★★★

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:
Roast Turkey,
Baked Salmon,
Vegetarian Plate
or Fruit Plate*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Mar. 12, 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 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 \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff on Price's 1864 Missouri Raid

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Arguably, the Civil War started in Missouri in the years before Secession, with the fighting in Bloody Kansas. Here John Brown, William Quantrill and Jesse James carved their names into the history books. And here was the scene of one of the last major offensives of the Confederate army, the 1864 Confederate raid into Missouri led by Confederate General (and former Missouri governor) Sterling Price.

Price's raid was the last major action west of the Mississippi River. The Confederates launched the raid for purposes they were not entirely certain of. For Price, it was a blow to liberate his beloved Missouri from Yankee rule. For Price's superior, Department commander E. Kirby Smith, the raid was a chance to bring in new recruits and keep the army busy. For Confederate President Jefferson Davis, thinking of the larger implications, the raid might divert Union troops who might otherwise put added pressure on Atlanta.

The raid certainly didn't accomplish what Price intended. Missouri didn't rise up en masse, and Union forces chased Price's mounted men out of the state. But the raid—which included a battle at Westport that



Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff

was the largest conflict fought in the Trans-Mississippi—did temporarily divert Union troops from reinforcing Sherman's advance.

On March 14th, Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff will examine that raid.

Former Chicagoans, the speakers moved to Missouri from Chicago 16 years ago so Aaron Barnhart could take a job as television and media critic for the Kansas City Star. Diane Eickhoff is an author and historian



According to the Civil War Trust, the speakers' book, [The Big Divide: A Travel Guide to the Historic and Civil War Sites in the Missouri-Kansas Border Region](#),

“explores the history, differences and cultural resources of the Missouri-Kansas borderlands. Their offering provides a portrait of this area through insightful reviews, thoughts and interesting facts about historic sites in the region. From the “Border War” to Fort Scott, readers will discover the immense and intricate history in America's heartland, along with the long history of animosity between these two states, their peoples and struggle for identity.”

Lack Of Funds Closes Conservation Lab At USS Monitor Center

BY SCOTT C. BOYD

(February/March 2014 Civil War News)

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – The Mariners’ Museum (TMM) announced Jan. 9 that it was “temporarily closing” its conservation lab that holds the largest artifacts from the USS Monitor. The museum cited a lack of federal funding and the expiration of the programmatic agreement it had with the government.

“We regret having to make this decision, which is a deeply emotional one for our Monitor conservators, who consider themselves the guardians of these artifacts, and of their power to bring to life this important episode of American history,” TMM President and CEO Elliot Gruber said in the release.

The closure of the 5,000-square-foot wet lab, part of the 15,000-square-foot Batten Conservation Complex at the USS Monitor Center, housed at The Mariners’, will not damage the artifacts.

“The artifacts are currently stable and will be maintained in a stable setting in the near-term,” according to David Krop, director of the USS Monitor Center.

The closure of the wet lab, however, means that “the treatment of large artifacts like the gun turret, steam engine, and Dahlgren guns has essentially been paused,” Krop said.

There have been no layoffs due to the lack of federal Monitor conservation funding.

However, “There is no secure long-term outlook for conservation staff at this point,” Krop said. “The work we do on a daily basis requires significant resources. Dwindling funds and other support in recent years has increased the financial burden placed on the museum and, without a secure and stable funding mechanism, there are no guarantees for staff security.”

NOAA-TMM Connection

The USS Monitor wreck site off Cape Hatteras, N.C., and the artifacts recovered from it are owned by the federal government. They are protected by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

In 1987 NOAA designated The Mariners’ as the repository for recovered Monitor artifacts.

The programmatic agreement between NOAA, TMM, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding management and preservation of the Monitor artifacts expired on Dec. 31.

The cost of the ongoing conservation of Monitor artifacts is shared by NOAA and TMM.

“We are unable to commit appropriation funding until we have an appropriation [from Congress],” according to NOAA spokesman Matthew Stout.

NOAA has been handicapped by the lack of an official federal budget, like other government agencies, but President Barack Obama signing the FY2014 omnibus spending bill on Jan. 17 should get federal funds flowing again.

There is no specific line item in the federal budget for Monitor conservation, Stout said.

The funds come through the Department of Commerce, into NOAA, then to its National Ocean Service component and finally into the National Marine Sanctuaries Program – which has 12 sanctuaries and one marine monument to maintain, in addition to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary.

The Mariners’ press release stated that the 2013 cost to conserve the Monitor artifacts was approximately \$500,000, and that NOAA only covered 10 percent of that.

“The Museum is proud to partner with NOAA to conserve these artifacts, but their preservation is ultimately the responsibility of the federal government,” CEO Gruber said.

“Over the past several years, the Museum has used its resources to make up the federal shortfall, and this has placed a tremendous strain on our budget. We are unable to properly conserve our own 35,000 artifacts, develop new exhibitions and maintain our facility as well as pay for the conservation of federally owned and managed resources.”

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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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.

Stout said, “These are critically important artifacts – important not just to NOAA but to the entire country.”

“It’s imperative that we work cooperatively with our partners to find solutions to conserve them and have them enjoyed by the American public,” he said...

The USS Monitor ironclad made naval history at the Battle of Hampton Roads on March 9, 1862, when it fought the Confederate ironclad CSS Virginia in the first battle between armored warships.

The Monitor survived the battle but sank off Cape Hatteras on Dec. 31, 1862, while being towed south for action in the Charleston, S.C., area.

The Monitor wreck was discovered in 1973. Parts of the ship were recovered and sent to The Mariners’ Museum for conservation, including its iconic revolving turret, with two XI-inch Dahlgren guns, pulled from the sea in 2002

Recent CWRT Donations to Battlefield Preservation:

\$2,000 to the Civil War Trust
(for Reed’s Bridge, Chickamauga)

\$600 to the Civil War Trust
(for Chattanooga)

\$500 to Pamplin Historical Park

\$1,000 to the Camp Douglas
Monument Fund

February Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Col. **Harold Knudsen** addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 728th regular meeting on February 14, 2014, on General James Longstreet. Although Longstreet remains a controversial figure, Knudsen considers Longstreet to presage precepts of modern military doctrine, making him a 'modern general.' He concentrates his argument around Longstreet's actions at Fredericksburg where his 'Sunken Road' defense is an example of modern defense and fire support and at Chickamauga and Chattanooga where his ideas were an exemplar of modern offensive tactics.

At Fredericksburg, Longstreet set up both artillery and infantry fire control at Marye's Heights which different from then present tactics. Rather than permit control of artillery batteries by infantry commanders as had been the practice, he centralized artillery fire for direct support of the infantry. This centralized control by one or two officers permitted carefully sighted fire Confederate fire in what modern doctrine calls the 'killing zone' near the Sunken Road. The infantry contributed to this concept by using 'lanes of fire' which called for each soldier to fire into a set location in front of him and to synchronize fire by having two men loading for each man firing.

Following Fredericksburg, Longstreet's thought trended toward inflicting mass casualty on union

forces as was done there. This 'defensive-offensive' strategy would make it painful for the Lincoln administration to continue prosecute the war. The idea was to create windows of strategic approaches by using interior lines to concentrate forces in the west. Knudsen points out that if such reinforcement had taken place in Mississippi in the spring of 1863 that the balance of forces in that theater would have favored the south. This strategy also included adopting a defensive posture and receiving battle when on the strategic offensive, such as with the Gettysburg campaign. Lee described Longstreet's Corps, "as steady as a rock, a great rock...not to be broken by direct assault," and it was on this premise that Longstreet moved north.

Longstreet had the opportunity to put his ideas in action during the concentration which took place at Chickamauga/Chattanooga in the fall of 1863. Longstreet concentrated his corps at a point where the federal line was weak, and achieved a numerical advantage of almost four to one. The subsequent assault was similar to the doctrine developed by Hans Guderian where the objective was to penetrate the front with a 'Schwerpunkt' designed not to seek a decisive engagement at the front but rather to breach the front with overwhelming force and drive into the enemy's rear. This would disrupt communications and command centers and cause the main

body of the enemy to lose 'situational awareness' and panic. Longstreet's configuration of his command at Chickamauga anticipated this 'Blitzkrieg' concept.

After the rout of the union army at Chickamauga, Longstreet attempted to convince Bragg to take aggressive action to cross the Tennessee, seize Bridgeport, and place confederate troops in Hooker's rear and thwart crossing of the river. In the alternative, Longstreet advocated a shift in base to Rome, Georgia, from where the confederate army could operate on the union supply line. Eliminating the supply depot at Bridgeport was essential as union reinforcements were pouring into Chattanooga and time favored the defense. Neither recommendation was accepted, but Knudsen pointed out that modern doctrine would have endorsed this idea - an effective indirect approach designed to seize decisive points, to leverage the balance of forces, and to change the center of gravity to the South's advantage.

Knudsen concluded his remarks by discussing the 'Operational Art' which is the level at which generals function, pointing out how Longstreet's Bridgeport plan fit favorably into modern doctrine. Although Longstreet remains a controversial figure due to the controversy over Gettysburg and his post-war political activities, Knudsen considers him a progenitor of modern warfare.

GRAPESHOT



On March 29th, the semi-annual Zurko “National Civil War & Military Extravaganza” will be held at the DuPage County Fairgrounds.

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** hosts the Great Lakes Home Front Seminar on March 15th, exploring the civilian experience during the Civil War.

The **Kenosha Museum** hosts its 4th Annual Civil War Expo March 29th, featuring **Rob Girardi** speaking on “General Impressions of the Civil War”

On Mar. 28th-30th, at Charleston, IL, the Illinois State Historical Society is holding its Annual Symposium. The theme this year is “Copperheads in the Civil War”. **Bruce Allardice** will present “The Election of 1862 in Illinois”.

Rob Girardi will speak on “Gettysburg” at the Fremont Public Library, Mundelein, March 24th.

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.

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 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

- Mar. 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Ashley Dinnewith and Alex Pollock on “Antietam and Fredericksburg”
- Mar. 7th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Bruce Allardice** on “The Election of 1864”
- Mar. 11th, McHenry County CWRT: Don Purn on “Soldiers of McHenry County”
- Mar. 13th, Lake County CWRT: Ken Suskin on “Brigadier General Galusha Pennypacker
- Mar. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Aaron Barnhart and Diane Eickhoff on “Price’s 1864 Missouri Raid”
- Mar. 14th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Jeff Kannell will discuss “The 29th U.S. Colored Troops.”
- Mar. 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Michael Burlingame on “What More Can Be Said About Abraham Lincoln”
- Mar. 19th, Starved Rock CWRT of Ottawa: Scott Wallace on “Five Forks”
- Mar. 21st, Salt Creek CWRT: Cindy Intravartolo on “The Holy Cross Sisters During the Civil War”
- Mar. 27th, South Suburban CWRT: Ted Karamanski on “Fighting the Civil War as an Indian War”

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*.

April 11: Scott Bowden, “Last Chance for Victory”

May 9: Dave Bastian, “Grant’s Canal”

June 13: Kenneth Noe, “The War in Appalachia”

Aug. 15: Lance Herdegen, “The Iron Brigade”

Sept. 12: Frank Varney on “General Grant’s Memoirs”

Oct. 10: Mark Bradley, Topic TBD

Nov. 14: Steve Towne on “Civil War Espionage”

Dec. 12: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address

The next **Virtual Book Signing** will take place on Saturday, March 15th at noon. Join the Abraham Lincoln Bookshop for a book discussion with author Michael C.C. Adams. He will talk about his new book, *Living Hell: The Dark Side of the Civil War*.

Reminder—Bearss Fund

Our annual appeal for the Bearss Fund is underway. The CWRT asks for donations so that we can, during our annual battlefield tour, give Ed a check for the battlefield preservation effort of Ed’s choice. Donees will get their names published in the newsletter.



150 YEARS AGO – MARCH 1864



- 1st:** The Dahlgren-Kilpatrick cavalry raid on Richmond started to go badly wrong. Having ridden for 36 hours, both men and horses were exhausted. The raiders failed to seize Richmond or free the Union POWs in the city. By the time the raid formally ended the Unionists had lost 340 men and 500 horses, including Col. Ulric Dahlgren.
- 2nd:** Ulysses S. Grant was formally promoted to lieutenant general and assumed the title General-in-Chief of the Army of the United States.
- 9th:** Grant received his new command in a ceremony attended by the whole Cabinet.
- 17th:** Grant, observing a request from Halleck, relieved the general of his command and appointed him chief-of-staff. Grant announced that the Union's military headquarters would be with the Army of the Potomac. Grant made the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia his primary aim.
- 18th:** General William T. Sherman was given formal command of the Military Division of the Mississippi.
- 24th:** Confederates under General Nathan Bedford Forrest seize Union City, TN.
- 26th:** Major General James B. McPherson assumes command of the Army of Tennessee.
- 27th:** Sherman, in Vicksburg, was making hard and fast plans for his campaign against Atlanta. These included calling in Union troops from elsewhere such as A. J. Smith's corps from Alexandria, Louisiana.

This month in the history of the Chicago CWRT

- 1941 (73 years ago):** Otto Eisenschiml spoke on "Civil War Battlefields I Have Visited" (note: this was the 4th meeting of the CWRT)
- 1964 (50 years ago):** Clyde C. Walton spoke on "Battles by the Book: Training of the Civil War Soldier"
- 1989 (25 years ago):** Jerry Russell spoke on "The Battle of Pea Ridge"
- 2004 (10 years ago):** Tom Schwartz spoke on "Lincoln and Death Threats"

Special August Meeting

The CWRT has set up a Special meeting for Friday, August 15th, to be held at the Rosewood Banquet Hall and Restaurant in Rosemont, Illinois. The CWRT wants to see if a meeting place outside the Chicago Loop will be more convenient for our members. Author Lance Herdegen, an always-entertaining presenter, will be the speaker. More details will be forthcoming.

(over)

Fort Monroe Master Plan Approved

BY SCOTT C. BOYD

(February/March 2014 Civil War News)

FORT MONROE, Va. – Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell approved the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA) Master Plan on Dec. 11, one month before leaving office.

In his approval letter, McDonnell asked the FMA board of trustees to “continue to work with all interested parties to mitigate any unnecessary negative impact on the historical attributes of the site in order to maximize its viability as a national treasure, while implementing the designated public and private uses of the property.”

FMA Executive Director Glenn Oder told Civil War News, “The final Master Plan is the result of two years of meetings and fulfills the FMA Legislative mandate to preserve the property, tell the stories of Fort Monroe, and become economically sustainable.”

Fort Monroe’s 565 acres were U.S. Government property from 1819 until the Army closed its base there on Sept. 15, 2011. The property reverted to its original owner, the Commonwealth of Virginia, which turned it into a political subdivision called the Fort Monroe Authority.

On Nov. 1, 2011, President Barack Obama used the Antiquities Act to designate 325 of the 565 acres as the Fort Monroe National Monument. The site has two separate parts administered by the National Park Service (NPS): the historic moated fort and North Beach area (see December 2011 CWN).

The NPS has three employees, including Supt. Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, who took over the new unit in November 2011.

Between the park’s two parts lies the 72-acre Wherry Quarter, which is designated for residential development. Other land around the old fort includes residential and commercial properties. This part of the plan had a mixed reception from the historic preservation community which has proponents for adding it to the national monument immediately or later.

Oder lists master plan supporters, including the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Virginia, the State Historic Preservation Officer, along with three FMA groups: its planning advisory group, finance committee and board of trustees.

“These groups and individuals commented that the Wherry Property provides an opportunity to use marsh land that was filled by the Army in the early 1900s for the purpose of providing revenue to pay for the care and maintenance of the historic portions of the Fort and the historic property at Old Point Comfort,” Oder wrote. He said the master plan calls for multiple green area corridors between the National Park sites.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation supports the master plan in general, and “preservation-based reuse of Fort Monroe,” and would like to see the Wherry Quarter eventually become part of the NPS property.

Trust Executive Vice President and Chief Preservation Officer David J. Brown in an Oct. 24 letter that urged plan approval recommended the FMA continue to use the Wherry Quarter’s 25 buildings, “capital assets which should not be wasted.”

Brown wrote, “When the useful life of non-contributing buildings is exhausted, the majority of the Wherry Quarter acreage should become park land to complement the National Monument.”

...Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park, headed by Mark Perreault, “believes that the core of the Wherry Quarter, the approximately 50 acres that separate the two parts of Fort Monroe National Monument, and that contain no historic structures, must be turned into green space and eventually transferred to the Monument,” Perreault wrote on the group’s website.

The Fort Monroe Master Plan can be found at www.fmauthority.com. The Fort Monroe National Monument website is www.nps.gov/fomr/index.htm