



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Volume LXXIX, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 2020

788th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Pam Toler on:

### *“Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War”*



On January 10, Pam Toler will speak on "Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses of the Civil War." In this talk Pamela Toler tells the story of how thousands of women with little or no experience with nursing volunteered to serve their country during the Civil War, taught themselves how to do the job under adverse circumstances (including hostility from the surgeons with whom they worked), and created a profession that did not exist before

the war. Her research was the basis for the tv series of the same name.

Pamela Toler grew up in Springfield, Missouri, where she participated in living history programs at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, learned to shoot a muzzle-loading rifle, and read and reread the biographies of women like Clara Barton, Julia Ward Howe, and Harriet Beecher Stowe. Today armed with a PhD in history, a well-thumbed deck of library cards, and a huge bump of curiosity, author, speaker, and historian, Pamela D.

Toler translates history for a popular audience, going beyond the familiar boundaries of American history to tell stories from other parts of the world as well as history from the other side of the battlefield, the gender line, or the color bar. She is the author of eight books of popular history for children and adults. In "Heroines of Mercy Street," Toler has returned to her first historical love: Civil War in general and its impact on women in particular.

**CALL BY Sunday, JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, for Dinner Reservations**

## **PRESERVATION NEWS**

### **Raymond Battlefield Markers Installed**

Dec. 15, 2019

The Chicago Civil War Round Table:

We successfully installed all 23 interpretive markers on the Raymond battlefield this past Friday and Saturday, 13-14 December. I attach photos of the two markers sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable of Chicago. I think they do you proud!

Please pass on our sincere appreciation to all for your support of the preservation and interpretation mission of Friends of Raymond. We are a grassroots organization and your roundtable's help has been vital to us over the years.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Parker

Parker Hills, Brig. Gen. USA (Ret.)

### **Bid to buy more of Resaca battlefield is unsuccessful**

On 20 November, Trust for Public Land (TPL) auctioned 432 acres of land at Resaca, including portions of what the American Battlefield Protection Program has designated as Core Area and Study Area for the May 1864 battlefield. In 2008, TPL bought 483 acres (including the 432 up for auction) and was unable to sell it as a single property. Consequently, TPL divided the property into four tracts.

In 2010, Georgia Battlefields Association (GBA) contributed to the purchase of a conservation easement on 473 of the original 483 acres. See February 2011 newsletter, available on our web site [www.georgiabattlefields.org](http://www.georgiabattlefields.org). TPL withheld 10 acres from the easement. The easement was negotiated and purchased by the Civil War Preservation Trust (since succeeded by Civil War Trust and then American Battlefield Trust [www.battlefields.org](http://www.battlefields.org)) and is held by Gordon County.

In 2012, GBA contributed to Civil War Trust half the amount for outright purchase of 51 acres already within the easement. The 51 acres includes the notable van den Corput battery site and other earthworks. See April 2012 newsletter.

For the 20 November 2019 auction, preservation groups were most concerned about Tract C, which contains Parcel 7 (4.62 acres already under easement) and Parcel 6 (the 10 acres not under easement). Our specific concern was that the unrestricted 10 acres could be developed into one or more private residences.

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GBA and Friends of Resaca Battlefield pledged funds towards a Tract C bid submitted by American Battlefield Trust (ABT), but ABT's sealed bid did not prevail. ABT will follow-up with the successful bidder (not publicly revealed as of this writing) to see if they will consider preservation of the land.

### Horace Mewborn Passes Away



Horace Mewborn was a native of North Carolina. After graduating from Campbell College he served seven years in the U.S. Army, with 2-1/2 years in Vietnam. After leaving the army, he graduated from East Carolina University and entered the FBI. Among his assignments with the FBI were tours of duty in New York City, Washington D.C., and FBI headquarters.

He authored five articles for *Blue and Gray Magazine*, including three articles about the operations of John Mosby and his Rangers and an August, 1998 article on Stuart's ride around McClellan. Horace co-authored the book on Mosby's command, the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, for the H.E. Howard Virginia Regimental series, and he compiled and edited "From Mosby's Command". Horace served as guide for the CWRT's 2006 battlefield tour.

Horace was a close friend to many in our Round Table.

Marshall Krolick has made arrangements with the New Bern Historical Society to honor Horace Mewborn's memory, friendship and contribution to advancing our knowledge of the Civil War, and to preserving the New Bern Battlefield in particular, by making a donation in Horace's name to the Historical Society for the express purpose of supporting and maintaining the battlefield. Marshall is asking us to support the effort and to send any donations you might care to make to Marshall at 2541 Jardin Terrace, Weston, Florida, 33327. He will then forward everything to the Historical Society. Please make your check payable to the New Bern Historical Society, with a notation in Memory of Horace Mewborn.

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### Save the Date!

The **2020 Battlefield Tour** of West Virginia will be June 3-7, 2020—later than usual, because the mountains of the area are quite cold earlier in the year. Ed Bearss will, as usual, be our guide—and you can't get better than Ed! This is the first time this Civil War Round Table has visited the West Virginia battlefields. More information will be forthcoming.

# December Meeting

By Mark Matranga

Dan Weinberg spoke to The Civil War Round Table at its 787<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on December 13, 2019, on “The Musings of a Collecting Voyeur,” a personal foray into an interesting selection of the many fascinating artifacts which have come into his possession during his tenure at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. Weinberg started at ALBS under Ralph Newman who started the store in 1933 and who with others founded The Round Table in 1940. He became a co-owner in 1971 and has been the sole proprietor since 1984.

Abraham Lincoln Book Shop deals not only in sales of new and collectible books but also in the purchasing, selling, and authenticating of historical artifacts. Weinberg tells us that influenced by Carl Sandburg, Newman started collecting Civil War artifacts in 1938, a process that continues to this day. Dan has also brought the bookstore into broader renown with his program *Author’s Voice* wherein he brings authors and book signings into our homes via the internet.

Weinberg declares that as a collecting ‘voyeur’ he “collects us,” our stories and our collecting histories. Artifacts take us beyond ourselves and arouse curiosity as well as mere enjoyment. This certainly applies to artifacts associated with Abraham Lincoln, who Weinberg emphasizes is ingrained in our culture due to his assassination. He notes that in a survey in Russia that Lincoln was named number 36 among the 50 most important persons in history, a notable accolade. He considers this a facet of ‘Lincoln Obsessives,’ as Lincoln is so well known for having saved the union and ended slavery, but most of all he is known for his character.

Weinberg presented a series of 35 documents which revealed many facets of Lincoln’s life. These ranged from Requisition Orders while a Captain in the Black Hawk War to a document bearing Lincoln’s name from an 1856 Kansas Aid Convention in Buffalo held to raise funds to send to abolitionists and Free Soilers. Weinberg is not certain Lincoln attended this event and continues to investigate. On the subject of Lincoln’s signature, Weinberg’s experience has led him to believe that Lincoln’s secretaries, especially John Hay, signed his name. Hay sent a photo with the President’s autograph which Weinberg calls out as a blatant forgery. He pointed also to a letter allegedly signed by Lincoln at City Point but on a date when the President was not there.

Investigating potential forgeries was an intriguing part of the presentation – Weinberg discussed a note signed to a woman on Executive Mansion stationery on September 22, 1862 which at first blush appears forged as it contains a rather sloppy attempt at Lincoln’s full signature which he generally did not use except on official document such as the Emancipation Proclamation, the preliminary version of which he signed that day. Weinberg surmises that having just signed the Proclamation he began to sign his full name again but then paused and did not complete his first name, and then wrote his last name. His knowledge of Lincoln’s handwriting caused Weinberg to believe that that document was genuine.

Many of the documents dealt with rather quotidian matters: a check to a tradesman for home improvements on his Springfield home, a letter from Robert Lincoln to a friend telling him how dull life was in Springfield, and a letter from father to son in January 1862 asking Robert to come to Washington. But Weinberg has had the St. Gaudens Life Mask and Hands up close, and for some time has had one of the Surrender Tables from the Maclean House at Appomattox in the shop. He pointed out some unusual items, for example, an 1861 note on Executive Mansion stationery with an obvious fingerprint. Also, a Land Grant to Horatio King’s daughter which presidents rarely signed. King was responsible for having removed all former slaves from the District after January 1863.

In all, an absorbing presentation best experienced by viewing the documents and artifacts on Marc Kunis' U-tube site. Dan's detailed discussion of handwriting analysis is best digested via video.

## BULLETIN BOARD



The next "Friday Lunch Box" event at the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will be at noon on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

"Iowa Confederates: The Forgotten Iowans of the Civil War"

David Connon, author of the newly published *Iowa Confederates in the Civil War*, will discuss the motives of 76 men who served the C.S.A. and ways in which they were shadow images of their Union counterparts. He will also share statistics on the number of Iowans who returned to the state after Appomattox. In addition, he will give insights into wartime Iowa, in particular, the State Republican Party's propaganda campaign.

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

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Rob Girardi will speak to the Milwaukee SUV Feb. 1 on "Abraham Lincoln and the Common Soldier." For more on Rob's programs, visit <https://www.robertgirardi.com/>

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Bruce Allardice will speak on "Conscription and the Civil War" Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Custer Camp, SUV. For more on Bruce's programs, visit [www.civilwarbruce.com](http://www.civilwarbruce.com).

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### Author's Voice

Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.

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

## More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Jan. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT: David Connon on "Iowa Confederates"

Jan. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Pam Toler on "Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War"

Jan. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Art Foley on "The Battle of Honey Springs"

Jan. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Mike Ward on "Artillery in the Civil War"

Jan. 23rd, South Suburban CWRT: Leslie Goddard presents "Louisa May Alcott and the Civil War Era"

Feb. 3rd, 2 Old Goats in Cedar Lake, IN: Brian Conroy on "1st Michigan Engineers"

## Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

**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*

### Meeting Details

**Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 Sunday, Jan. 5, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto: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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org).

