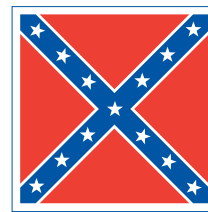


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXX, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 2009



685th REGULAR MEETING

Patrick Schroeder

on

"Myths about Lee's
Surrender"

★★★★★

Friday, November 13

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Roast Pork Loin,
Orange Roughy, Vegetarian
Plate or Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Nov. 9 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net, 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 \$5 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$10 with a validated parking sticker.

Patrick A. Schroeder on Myths about Lee's Surrender

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

"All up and down the lines the men blinked at one another, unable to realize that the hour they had waited for so long was actually at hand. There was a truce, they could see that, ...and no one could doubt that Lee was going to surrender." Bruce Catton's immortal prose describes the common soldier's reaction to Appomattox surrender. But myths and legend encrust the truth of the Civil War's last great act.

On November 13, historian Pat Schroeder will cover some of the most interesting aspects of Appomattox, from his books Thirty Myths about Lee's Surrender and More Myths about Lee's Surrender. Pat hopes to tell what really happened at Appomattox—separating myth from fact. Some things that will be discussed are: Who first asked Lee to surrender? Details of the Apple Tree meeting. What became of the McLean House? Details of the stacking of arms ceremony. The battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Court House. Civilian casualties at Appomattox. The last casualty at Appomattox. And much more.

Patrick Schroeder was born January 1, 1968, at Fort Belvoir, VA. He graduated Cum Laude with a B.S. in Historical Park Administration from Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, WV,



Patrick A. Schroeder

and has a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From 1986 to 1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal living history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Since 2002, he has been the Historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote Thirty Myths About Lee's Surrender, which is currently in its twelfth printing. Patrick has written, edited and/or contributed to more than twenty Civil War titles including: More Myths

About Lee's Surrender, The Confederate Cemetery at Appomattox, Recollections and Reminiscences of Old Appomattox, Civil War Soldier Life: In Camp and

Battle, A Duryee Zouave, We Came To Fight: A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Inf., Duryee's Zouaves, and The Life of General Ely S. Parker: Last Grand Sachem of the Iroquois and Grant's Military Secretary. In an effort to protect sites relevant to the Appomattox Campaign, Patrick has set up the "Appomattox Fund" with the Civil War Preservation Trust, to save land important to the climatic events of April 1865.



Battlefield Preservation

BY ROB GIRARDI

As a follow up to the shady vote that allowed Walmart to progress with its building plans adjacent to Wilderness Battlefield, a local group citizens and historians in coalition with the National Trust for Historic Preservation have recently filed a lawsuit against Orange County. This lawsuit seeks to address the alleged very serious breaches in process that went on during the course of the year-long debate with Walmart and will force Walmart to delay breaking ground. We can only hope that by continuing to resist the ill-conceived location of the Walmart store, reason will prevail. Nobody objects to new jobs and new stores...just not at the expense of our historic heritage.

Civil War Preservation Trust has begun a new campaign to purchase 85 acres at Chancellorsville, comprising the ground where Stonewall Jackson's Corps attacked the Federal positions on May 2, 1863 after executing his flank march. This piece of ground, is, in the words of Robert K. Krick, the #2 most important piece of unprotected battlefield land," in the country. The total cost for this ground is \$2,125,000. There is a matching fund program associated with this project.

Similarly, 94 acres of Wilderness Battlefield is also part of a CWPT project. It will take \$950,000 to conserve this ground and it will provide a buffer against new development like the Walmart project. There is an 8 to 1 matching fund arrangement for this project.

Since the Civil War Round table of Chicago is visiting the Wilderness in April, I encourage all members to consider contributing to these worthy projects. Let's all work to save the places we like to visit—so that we may continue to do so.

I would like to remind all members to support Battlefield Preservation at the monthly meetings. Buy a raffle ticket or ten...grab a good book from the battlefield Bookshelf, purchase some of the Civil War Notable notecards, or donate a few dollars just because...

From **Civil War News**, a reminder how preservation money has preserved bat-

tle sites —“Thanks to discoveries after metal detector surveying of former golf course sand traps on the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield, a Franklin City Alderman wants to require such surveys of any historical land before it is developed.

Alderman Mike Skinner said such surveys would not be at a developer's expense and would allow recovered artifacts to be removed for preservation and study.

Skinner was inspired by the August survey report that Gregory L. Wade presented to the City of Franklin Parks Department which directed the metal detector survey of the city-owned tract.

The Eastern Flank survey was preceded by a similar survey a year ago on Harlinsdale Farm, which the city bought for a park. Based on that successful experience and relationship, the Parks Department's Deanne Scheffel this year asked Wade if he would like to organize a relic survey on the Eastern Flank park land where former Franklin Country Club sand traps were being removed.

It is known that Confederates crossed the 110-acre tract before entering into some of the Battle of Franklin's heaviest fighting and they were attacked by artillery from Fort Granger. Franklin's Charge preservation coalition bought the \$5 million property in 2005 to prevent its development when the country club was put up for sale. ...

The third day ... Michael Johnson's detector gave a signal for iron and he found a 6-pdr. cannon ball 18-20 inches deep.

More days of searching turned up more trash, then some good finds including the base of an exploded Hotchkiss shell, one round of iron grape shot and a shell fragment. All of these were documented with GPS coordinates, photos and descriptions that Wade provided based on reference sources....

Wade's report to the city speculated that additional evidence of battle, such as projectile fuses or sabots, were still

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www.thecwrt.org

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact
bsa1861@att.net.

deep in the ground or had been excavated before the golf course was built.

He recommended that the city consider further surveying of the property whenever dirt is to be moved and that the property be posted against use of metal detectors by the general public."

Reminder — the Battlefield Preservation Committee will have a meeting on Saturday, November 7th at Rob Girardi's home at 9:30 a.m. All CWRT members are welcome to attend.

Pritzker Military Library Receives Award

Chicago's Pritzker Military Library has been named one of the 10 recipients of the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries. The library, at 610 North Fairbanks in Chicago, hosts a series of events featuring talks by military historians. Visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org for information on the library, these events, and their podcasts.

October Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

On October 9th, at the 684th meeting of the Civil War Round Table, before 84 members and guests, Dr. Craig L. Symonds delivered the 2009 Nevins-Freeman address on "The Blockade: A Reassessment." Dr. Symonds related the organization, characteristics, and effects of the blockade which assisted in undermining the Confederate government, its economy, and its war effort. He punctuated this entertaining and informative speech with the drawings of Dr. Charles Ellery Steadman, a ship's doctor who depicted life aboard a blockade ship.

The navy's primary role in the war was to establish, maintain, and manage a blockade of the southern Confederacy. This presented logistic and legal difficulties for the Lincoln administration. First, the blockade required an effective force covering every navigable river or port. The south had a coastline 3,500 miles long, and at the outset of the war the U.S. Navy had 42 warships, only 12 of which were available for service. Also, declaring a blockade implied a legitimacy Lincoln refused to confer on the Confederacy.

Secretary of the Navy Welles initiated a crash building project transforming merchant ships into warships. This program of "90 day ships" was led by George D. Morgan, under whose supervision 49 ships were converted. One, the *Monticello*, was converted in 24 hours. By the end of 1861, the union had 264 ships in service, and at the end of the war, 671. Organizing the blockade was assigned to the Blockade Board headed by Admiral DuPont who divided the navy into four squadrons covering the North

Atlantic (Virginia/N. Carolina), South Atlantic (S. Carolina/Georgia/Florida), and the East and West Gulf. Establishing coaling stations was an important function as well-the seizure of Port Royal, South Carolina, was undertaken for this purpose.

Life in the blockade was a "dull tedium of routine" where nothing would happen for weeks on end. But when black smoke appeared on the horizon or coming out of a harbor a flurry of activity would ensue. Since most attempts to run the blockade occurred at night it was difficult to determine if an oncoming vessel were friend or foe. Most blockade runners were fast, low silhouette side-wheelers painted grayish blue, making them difficult to detect. Dr. Symonds cited the episode of the *Keystone State* whose captain chased notorious runner *Nashville* over 300 miles and eventually caused that ship to jettison its cargo of cotton, but who nonetheless was not credited with a seizure - the rebel ship escaped. He also related the story of the *Banshee*, carrying 200 tons of gunpowder, which after a harrowing night of near collision with and bombardment by five blockade ships finally found shelter under the guns of Fort Fisher.

The northern press used every southern success to criticize the blockade, New York *Herald* editor James Gordon Bennett calling Welles an "imbecile." But as the war deteriorated, southern writers were concerned with profiteering while soldiers starved in the trenches. The Richmond *Enquirer* condemned the "disgraceful extravagance" of "elaborate wardrobes" and called for the government to regulate blockade running. Eventually, there was pressure on the government

to require all outbound vessels to reserve 50% of their space to government cotton. Davis also proposed that importation of high value luxury goods be forbidden.

Did the blockade work? Blockade running was successful in 4 out of 5 attempts, and an owner recouped his costs with one successful run. Some 300 ships participated in blockade running, but eventually 73% were captured, destroyed, or lost. A high percentage of imported war material sustained the southern war effort; however, shortages in many items, tea and coffee, for example, caused hoarding and speculation and affected civilian morale. More important, the pre-war southern economy was dependent on the export of cotton. In the year after Fort Sumter, the Confederacy exported 50,000 bales of cotton, compared to 2.98 million shipped the year prior. The shortfall of revenue from cotton exports alone exceeded the Federal government's total expenditures for the navy during the war.

The blockade was porous, and internal transportation deficiencies hampered the war effort, but the blockade helped constrict the southern economy and reduce its logistic base. Dr. Symonds concluded that the war could have been won without it, but the "slow asphyxiation" of the blockade shortened the war and ultimately saved lives.

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net

GRAPESHOT



The Nov. 14th **McHenry Co. CWRT Annual Symposium** features talks by our own **Bob Miller** and **Rob Girardi**. The symposium runs from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is at Pinecrest Golf Club, 11220 Algonquin Rd., in Huntley. Phone (815) 923-1910 or email eurban@fvi.net for details.

On Nov. 12th **Rob Girardi** will be speaking to the Decatur (IL) CWRT.

Long time CWRT member **Harold Leichenko** passed away Oct. 9th after a long illness, survived by his wife Eleanor, also a long time member. Our deepest sympathies to the Leichenko family.

Bob Miller has recently given talks on "Religion and the Civil War" to the CWRTs in Madison, IN, and Minneapolis, MN.

The **Chicago History Museum** is currently featuring "Lincoln at 200", an online exhibit with over 200 images of Illinois's president, along with an in-house exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln Transformed".

The **Lincoln Square Theatre**, 4754 N. Leavitt St., Chicago, will present "Ambrose Bierce: Tales & Times", from Oct. 22 to Nov. 22. Tickets are \$15. The Oct. 31st show will feature a post-show presentation on "Bierce and the Civil War" by our own **Bjorn Skaptason**. Phone (773) 218-8144 for more details.

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Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians 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 preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Upcoming Civil War Events

- Nov. 3, Blue Island CWRT: Noah Trudeau's scheduled talk, "Lessons in Leadership" has been cancelled due to illness in Mr. Trudeau's family
- Nov. 4, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Chickamauga Impressions"
- Nov. 5, Lake County CWRT: **Rick Andresen** on "The Copperheads"
- Nov. 6, Northern Illinois CWRT: Max and Donna Daniels present "An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln"
- Nov. 6, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual book auction to benefit battlefield preservation, at the Glen Ellyn History Center
- Nov. 7, Racine Memorial Hall: Civil War Music by the First Brigade Band. Phone (608) 527-4222 for details.
- Nov. 10 & 17, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Lance Herdegen on "Wisconsin in the Civil War". Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Nov. 10, McHenry Co. CWRT: **Charlie Banks** on "Jedediah Hotchkiss"
- Nov. 11, 1:30 p.m.: the city of Naperville will be rededicating the Confederate cannon in Central Park, Naperville
- Nov. 14, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Tim Townsend (historian at the Lincoln Home Site in Springfield) on "For a Vast Future Also"
- Nov. 19, South Suburban CWRT: Dennis Cremin on "Lockport's Lincoln Landing"

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsa1861@att.net or (630) 297-8046.

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. 13: **Patrick Schroeder**, "Myths About Lee's Surrender"
- Dec. 11: **Brooks Davis**, "Lincoln and Davis as War Leaders"
- Jan. 8, 2010: **Rob Girardi**, "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign"
- Feb. 12: **Paul Finkelman**, "Lincoln and Emancipation"
- March 12: **Eric Jacobson**, "The Battle of Franklin"
- April 9: **David O. Stewart**, "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"
- May 14: **William W. Freeling**, "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession"
- June 11: **John V. Quarstein**, "Battle of the Ironclads"

Medical update: **Larry Gibbs** had successful hip replacement surgery this month, and is recuperating at his sister's house. Get well cards can be sent to Larry, c/o Marilyn Gibbs, 2029 Villa Pines Circle, Carbon Cliff, IL, 61239.

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be 6 p.m., Nov. 5th, with Joan Waugh talking about her new book, [U.S. Grant. American Hero. American Myth.](#) On Nov. 21st, at noon. Philip Kunhardt and Earl Maltz will talk about their new books [Lincoln Life-Size](#) and [Slavery and the Supreme Court](#). For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincolnbookshop.com.