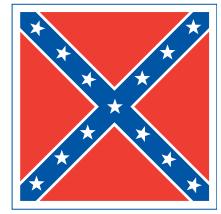


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 2013



722nd REGULAR MEETING

Tim Smith
on
"Corinth 1862"

★★★★★

Friday, June 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 Sirloin,
Baked Salmon,
Vegetarian Plate or
Fruit Plate*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, June 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.

Tim Smith on Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

In the spring of 1862, there was perhaps no more important location in the western Confederacy, and possibly in the entire South for that matter, than Corinth, Mississippi. Major General Henry W. Halleck declared on May 25, "Richmond and Corinth are now the great strategical points of war, and our success at these points should be insured at all hazards." Corinth's defender, P. G. T. Beauregard, similarly argued to Richmond immediately after Shiloh that, "If defeated here, we lose the Mississippi Valley and probably our cause." Situated at the crossing of the western Confederacy's two most important rail lines, Corinth has gained the sobriquet as the vertebrae of the Confederacy."

As a result, Union and Confederate armies vied for control over the railroad town over almost the entire year of 1862, first in a spring siege and then in a fall battle. The occupation in between the two and after Corinth was safely in Union hands brought additional issues such as logistics, dealing with local civilians, and Federal policy regarding slaves and contrabands. Examining Corinth in the Civil War, especially



Tim Smith

in the pivotal year of 1862, can thus help us understand the crucial events wedged between and often overshadowed by Shiloh and Vicksburg.

Dr. Timothy Smith, Civil War author and historian, is a native of Mississippi but now resides in Tennessee, where he teaches history at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Smith received both BA and MA degrees in history from the University of Mississippi and a PhD from Mississippi State University in 2001.

Pursuing his love of history, Smith worked for the National Park Service at the Shiloh National Military Park for seven years,

where his interest in the Civil War was intensified. Dr. Smith is the author of numerous books, including Champion Hill: Decisive Battle for Vicksburg (2004) and Mississippi in the Civil War (2010). His most recent book is the acclaimed Corinth 1862: Siege, Battle, Occupation, published by the University Press of Kansas. He recently signed a contract with Kansas for a new book on Shiloh.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Brandy Station

by Clark B. Hall

(May 2013 *Civil War News* –
Preservation Column)

Col. John S. Mosby certainly knew more than most about fighting on horseback and his conclusion that the Battle of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863, was “the fiercest mounted combat of the war – in fact, of any war,” must today receive weighty consideration.

A staff officer to Jeb Stuart concurred when adding, “Brandy Station was the most terrible cavalry fight of the war” and the “greatest ever fought on the American continent.”

So with Brandy Station acknowledged as the grandest cavalry battle of the war and equally renowned as the inaugural action of the war’s threshold campaign – both matters of no small distinction – we who serve Brandy Station do “fully recognize” that the Sesquicentennial recognition of such a momentous battle must be commensurate with the import of this “sudden clash in Culpeper, precluding the thunder at Cemetery Hill.”

As a direct result of this failed preservation ordeal, a new nationwide battlefield preservation organization had formed and was solidly in place just before Brandy Station was slated for wholesale destruction.

Dr. Gary Gallagher, President of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites Inc. (APCWS), asked me to give the board a briefing on this terrible threat to Brandy Station.

Following that long update, Dr. Gallagher and the board authorized me (ordered me, actually) to meet with the developer and determine his plans.

The developer’s expressed intentions: “To farm the property.” Did we believe him? Not hardly. In fact, we girded for the battle to come.

Gary Gallagher, Bob Krick, Jack Ackery, Merle Sumner, Don Pfanz, Alan Nolan, Will Greene, Dennis Frye, Brian Pohanka, Chris Calkins and Ed Wenzel... Brandy Station heroes, all of them, and but for their courageous decision to “get involved,” Brandy Station would now be an industrial office park, or a Formula One racetrack.

Point being APCWS showed preservation leadership when it most counted.

Many contentious years of lawsuits ensued against the developers by the APCWS-created and funded Brandy Station Foundation and finally resulted in developer bankruptcies. And after sweeping away our collective tears at the “tragic” demise of these star-struck developers, APCWS purchased hundreds of battlefield acres for millions of dollars in 1996.

Today, the Civil War Trust – the extraordinarily effective successor organization to APCWS – controls almost 2,000 acres at Brandy Station. But, although much has been accomplished, it is a reality that yet remains to be accomplished.

The hallowed ground CWT presently owns and controls at Brandy Station is vitally significant ground, to be sure, but the most significant military acreage on the entire battlefield has remained in private hands all these years, to wit: Fleetwood Hill.

Fleetwood Hill is without question the most fought over, camped upon, and marched over real estate in the entire United States.

Recently, the Civil War Trust has undertaken steps to secure the 61 precious acres that comprise the entirety of the southern terminus of Fleetwood – Gen. Jeb Stuart’s Headquarters during the battle.

The price tag is steep and there is no guarantee of success, but for the first time in modern history Fleetwood Hill is for sale and CWT is doing ev-

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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.

everything in its power to close the deal.

We can help, each of us, to make this happen and I urge you to do your part, if you can. Here is how:

Please visit the Trust’s website, www.CivilWar.org, and click on the link, “Civil War Trust Announces Preservation Opportunity on the Brandy Station Battlefield.”

After reviewing the details, and if you are so inclined (and I sincerely hope you are), please click the “Donate” link and join with many others who believe saving Fleetwood Hill is a national preservation priority of the highest rank.

On June 8, by the way, the esteemed Loudoun County (Va.) Civil War Round Table is hosting an all-day tour at Brandy Station to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the battle. For tour details, please see their website, lccwrt.wordpress.com. And if you attend, we promise you a cavalry battlefield outing that you will not soon forget.

Clark B. Hall is co-founder, Chantilly Battlefield Association; former board member and secretary, APCWS; and co-founder, Brandy Station Foundation (the original preservation entity).

May Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Ethan Rafuse addressed the 721st meeting of The Civil War Round Table on May 10, 2013, providing a lively discussion on “Lee and Gettysburg.” Lee graduated second in the class of 1829 and had a distinguished career in the old army, first as an engineer and then in the cavalry, his greatest achievement being his performance as a staff officer for General Scott in the Mexican War. With the Civil War, Lee became involved in the most intense phase of the sectional conflict. The south considered itself an independent country engaged in a ‘war between the states’ whereas the administration could not accept legitimacy of secession. Rafuse discussed the ‘triangularity’ of the struggle in which two armies contended against each other and battlefield outcomes affected the larger issue, the loyalty of the southern people.

Confederate strategy was dictated by its limited resources: a strategic defensive which would maintain its territorial and institutional integrity. Operationally, the idea was to await and block northern attack, a difficult strategy to implement because northern armies could choose the invasion route. Thus the union’s success in using rivers to drive into Tennessee: the south could not cover all possible avenues of approach. Also, northern advances secured coastal enclaves in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Louisiana. Norfolk was lost and the spring of 1862 found McClellan at the gates of Richmond.

In large part, union success in early 1862 was due to ‘asymmetric’ advantages of superior naval forces, engineering, and artillery. This caused southern strategy to change to the ‘offensive defensive.’ First, Lee turned Jackson loose in the Valley; he then concentrated his forces and pursued McClellan in the Seven Days’ battles when he achieved operational success. With the administration abandoning McClellan’s strategy of using the riverine approach and switching to the railroad, Lee was able to maneuver against Pope’s supply line, to create uncertainty and fluidity in the tactical situation, and to ultimately cause Pope to err. Lee’s invasion of Maryland, although thwarted, exemplified the change in strategy which emphasized concentration of forces and taking the initiative with the goal of exhausting the will of the northern people to continue the fight.

Despite victory at Fredericksburg in December 1862, Lee was not satisfied because Burnside merely retreated. After Fredericksburg, Lee was unable to take the initiative due to Longstreet’s detachment. With the advent of Hooker, the union approach was to force Lee to attack Hooker in a position of his choosing. Because the situation at Chancellorsville remained fluid until the moment of Jackson’s Flank Attack, Lee was able to achieve a tactical victory. But this type of engagement was futile: too many battles with such casualties would have negative

consequences for the Confederacy.

Lee determined to again move north, to exert pressure on Hooker and permit a campaign of maneuver which would neutralize Hooker’s advantages in artillery and engineering. The first day at Gettysburg played out in this fashion, but with the accession of Meade to leadership of the Army of the Potomac, the army consolidated. The second day was a day of transition, Meade attempting to position his forces and Lee looking to strike before Meade could concentrate. Lee achieved tactical success but Meade had sufficient troops to contain the offensive. On July 3rd, the campaign of maneuver had concluded and Lee was compelled to make a frontal assault which, in retrospective, seemed doomed.

Grant forced Lee on the defensive in May 1864, into a campaign in which artillery and engineering, trenches and siege warfare, became the order of the day. With this, the attempt by the Confederacy to maintain its governmental institutions and the safety and property of its people was lost.

Rafuse elucidated on the forces which generated Lee’s strategic planning in the Gettysburg campaign. His presentation serves as a great primer on the engagement whose 150th anniversary we will celebrate some thirty days hence.

GRAPESHOT



On June 7th, the **Northern Illinois CWRT** will hold its Annual Banquet, at Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. The program will feature first-person presenters George Buss and Tim Connor as “Lincoln and Douglas.”

The Military History Education Conference, sponsored by the Decatur CWRT, will be June 8th at Yoder’s in Arthur. The featured speakers include Lincoln Home historian Dale Phillips, and our own **Bruce Allardice** speaking on “The Ten Worst Civil War Generals”

On June 21st, the **Salt Creek CWRT** will hold its Annual Banquet at the Lisle Hilton, featuring author and historian Eric Jacobsen on “The Battle of Franklin.”

On June 18, the Civil War Museum in Kenosha will host a dinner and program to kick off their new exhibit on “Gettysburg.” Social hour/dinner starts at 5:30 p.m., and at 7:30 **Marshall Krolick** will speak on “Ride for the Union: The 8th Illinois Cavalry”. Contact the museum at www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

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

June 5th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Annual Dinner

June 6th, Canal Corridor Association in LaSalle: Edward Krolack on “Walt Whitman and Abraham Lincoln”

June 6th, Grayslake Heritage Center: Dave Oberg on “Battery H, First Illinois Light Artillery”

June 10th, Ann Arbor CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on “The Little Giant and the Big War”

June 11th, McHenry County CWRT: Rick Andresen on “Reconstruction Part II”

June 14th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Rod Miller on “the 113th Illinois”

June 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Timothy B. Smith on “Corinth”

June 16th, Graue Mill Museum in Oak Brook: The Battlefield Balladeers

June 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: James Duffy on “John Beall and the Northwest Conspiracy”

June 23rd, Glen Ellyn Historical Society: Forest Hill Cemetery Tour

June 23rd, Lake County CWRT: Annual Picnic

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.*

Sept. 13: John Michael Priest, “South Mountain”

Oct. 11: William Cooper, “We Have the War Upon Us”

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”

CWRT Elections

The annual CWRT election for officers will be at the June meeting. The nomination committee made up of past CWRT presidents, has selected the following slate for the 2013-14 year:

President: Mark Matranga; Senior VP: Paula Walker; 1st VP: Cindy Heckler; 2nd VP: Jonathan Sebastian; Treasurer: Marc Kunis; Ass’t Treasurer: Bob Gibson; Secretary: Leslie Goddard Allardice; Ass’t Sec.: Randy Doler.

Trustees with terms that Expire in 2015: Tom Murray, Rick Branham, Fred Johanson, R.T. Williams.

As in prior years, the nomination committee will present its selections, and members present at the meeting can make other nominations from the floor.



150 YEARS AGO – JUNE 1863



- 1st:** Ambrose Burnside orders the Chicago Times to close because of the paper's anti-Lincoln rhetoric.
- 3rd:** Robert E. Lee begins moving the Army of Northern Virginia, encamped near Fredericksburg, west towards the Shenandoah Valley.
- 7th:** Battle of Milliken's Bend. Confederate forces attack the Union garrison driving federals to the banks of the Mississippi, where the gunboats Lexington and Choctaw turn back the advancing Rebels.
- 9th:** Battle of Brandy Station, VA. Largest cavalry battle on American soil.
- 11th:** General John Hunt Morgan leaves Alexandria, Tennessee to raid Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana.
- 14th:** Nathaniel Banks orders an unsuccessful ground assault against Confederate fortress of Port Hudson.
- 15th:** Battle of Winchester, VA. Confederates captured or killed the 6000 men in the city.
- 17th:** The CSS Atlanta, an ironclad, surrenders after a brief battle with Union monitors
- 18th:** Major General John McClelland is relieved of command by Ulysses S. Grant for insubordination.
- 20th:** West Virginia becomes the 35th state to enter the United States, but the first to enter where the terms slave and free no longer mattered.
- 23rd:** Army of the Cumberland begins the Tullahoma Campaign.
- 23rd:** Forward units of the Army of Northern Virginia begin crossing the Potomac River into Maryland northwest of Harper's Ferry
- 26th:** General Jubal Early [CS] passes through Gettysburg on his way to York.
- 28th:** George Meade [US] assumes command of the Army of the Potomac, replacing Joe Hooker.
- 30th:** Advanced units (2 brigades under Buford) of the Army of the Potomac occupy Gettysburg.
- 23rd:** Army of Northern Virginia Major General Henry Heth orders a brigade under James J. Pettigrew to march to Gettysburg.

Virtual Book Signing

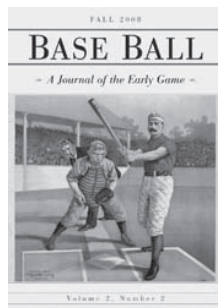
The next virtual book signing will be June 15, 2013 at noon at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop. John Taliaferro will talk about his new book, *The Life of John Hay*. Mr. Taliaferro will also be discussing this book at the Union League Club, at 11:30 on June 14th. Visit the shop's website at <http://virtualbooksigning.net> for more information.



Allardice Receives SABR Award for Article on Civil War Era Baseball

South Suburban College history instructor Bruce Allardice was recently announced as one of three winners of the 2013 McFarland-SABR Baseball Research Award, which honors the best articles on baseball history or biography completed during the preceding calendar year.

Allardice was selected to receive the award for his latest publication, "The Inauguration of This Noble and Manly Game Among Us: The Spread of Baseball in the South Prior to 1870," *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*, Fall 2012, McFarland & Co. The formal presentation will take place at the 43rd Annual SABR convention, July 31-August 4, 2013, at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

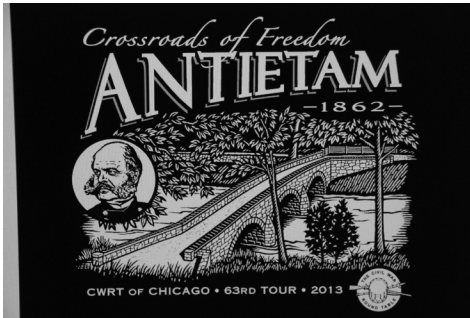


July and August Chicago Area CW Events

- July 1st, Palatine Public Library: Rob Girardi on "Gettysburg"
- July 9th, McHenry County CWRT: Bob Frenz on "Harley Wayne"
- July 13th-14th, Lakewood Forest Preserve, Wauconda: Civil War Days
- July 14th, Will County Historical Society: Bruce Allardice on "Civil War Era Baseball in Will County"
- July 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Tom Wessling on "Father Peter Whalen: Chaplain at Andersonville"
- July 15th, Elk Grove Village Library: Rob Girardi on "Gettysburg"
- July 20th, Oakbrook Public Library: Bruce Allardice on "Civil War Movies"
- July 27th-28th, 4 Seasons Park, Lombard: Sweet's Civil War encampment
- Aug. 2nd, Westbridge Assisted Living: Leslie Goddard as "Clara Barton"
- Aug. 9th, Bradley Public Library: Lincoln Exhibit Opens, with Bruce Allardice speaking on "Lincoln as War Leader"
- Aug. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Dale Phillips on "The Red River Campaign"
- Aug. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Scott Mings on "Flames Beyond Gettysburg"
- Aug. 24th, Oakbrook Public Library: Leslie Goddard as "Clara Barton"

Antietam Tour a lot of Fun!

Here's just a few photos. The weather was great, and Ed/Dennis are the best!



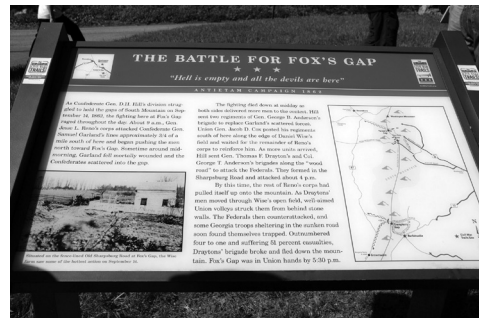
Tour Logo



Ed Bearss



Examining Bridge



Fox's Gap



CW Medicine Museum

Antietam Tour a lot of Fun!

Here's just a few photos. The weather was great, and Ed/Dennis are the best!



12 lb Napoleon



Antietam Monument



Burnside's Bridge



Dinner



The Group



CWRT of Chicago Membership Renewal

Time to renew your membership! A few highlights of what The CWRT offers members:

- As before, members save an additional \$5 a year on membership dues by electing to take the newsletter via e-mail.
- For those who wish to hear our excellent speakers but attend the talk only, we offer a “just listen” option for \$10.
- Members receive a 10 percent discount on purchases from the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop**. Just identify yourself as a member to get your discount!
- We’ve continued the popular option to make meeting/dinner reservations for monthly meeting via e-mail. Just give us your e-mail address and we will send you a reminder every month allowing you to reserve for the dinner, or just to listen, and of course you can make your meal selection right from your keyboard!
- Priority reservations for next year’s **battlefield tour**.
- Members get access to our **library of tapes** of the talks of past speakers such as Bruce Catton.
- Enjoy reduced fees on both Chicago CWRT events and other events co-sponsored by the Chicago CWRT.

Upon renewal, your membership period will run from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Types of Membership (Choose the type that is right for you!)

Sustaining Membership (\$85) - As a sustaining member you receive special recognition in our annual roster, and you provide much valued support to the educational and preservation efforts of The CWRT.

Regular Membership (\$45) - If you live within 250 miles of Chicago, this may be the membership for you! All of the privileges of membership are available at this rate

Family Membership for two family members (\$60) - This type of membership allows both spouses, or a parent and child to participate at member rates.

Family Membership for three family members (\$85) - This type of membership allows both spouses and a child, or a parent and two children to participate at member rates.

National Membership (\$40) - This type of membership is a great value for those who enjoy the newsletter and participating in the tours. This type of membership is limited to people who live more than 250 miles from Chicago.

Student Membership (\$32.50) - This type of membership is restricted to full time students. Because colleges and universities routinely offer e-mail service, and because the school year coincides with The CWRT year, students are encouraged to take their newsletter via e-mail. Please provide your e-mail address when completing the form below.

Life Membership - The Life Membership designation is awarded by the Executive Committee to members who have distinguished themselves in service to The CWRT. If you are a Life Member, please send us the form below and allow us to update the information in our files, and if you have an e-mail address, we would love to add that so we can communicate with you more quickly. Dues are waived. However, any donation you wish to make is very much appreciated and will be used to support the education and preservation activities of the Chicago CWRT.

Interested in receiving your newsletter by e-mail? If you have e-mail, you can receive your newsletter that way. It is the **fastest** way to get your CWRT newsletter. Plus, **you save \$5 on dues**. If you would like to see a sample e-mail newsletter before you decide, just drop an e-mail to bsa1861@att.net and request a sample!

 **Please return the form below with your payment.** 

Name(s) of Member(s) _____

Address _____

City, State & ZIP _____ Cell Phone (____) _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Fax (____) _____ e-mail* _____

*An e-mail address is required for people electing to receive the newsletter via e-mail. We would appreciate your e-mail address even if you want your newsletter mailed so we can communicate with you more easily.

Check here if you do not want the phone numbers and/or e-mail address you provided published in our roster. (Please do provide this information even if you don't want it published, we would like it for our records).

Dues

Please circle the dues option you select and enclose check with form when you mail. Be prompt!
Dues WILL BE INCREASED \$5 if received AFTER September 1, 2013.

Membership type	Mailed Newsletter	E-mailed Newsletter
Sustaining member	\$85.00	\$80.00
Regular member	\$45.00	\$40.00
Family members - Two family members (one newsletter) please list names	\$60.00	\$55.00
Family members - Three family members (one newsletter) please list names	\$85.00	\$80.00
National member	\$40.00	\$35.00
Student member	\$32.50	\$27.50
Life member, donations are appreciated. Please indicate newsletter preference		
I'd be interested in donating to the CWRT Battlefield Preservation Fund		

Please make checks payable to: The Civil War Round Table of Chicago (or just: CWRT of Chicago)

Please send to: Rae Radovich, Registrar, P.O. Box 434, Palos Park, IL 60464
 You can call her at (708) 218-1861 • raeradovich@earthlink.net
www.chicagocwrt.org