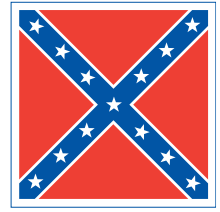


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXVIII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 2008



## 672<sup>st</sup> REGULAR MEETING

Bill Farina

on

“U.S. Grant”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, June 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

**\$35 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée: Roast pork loin.  
Catch of the Day, Vegetarian  
Plate or Fruit Plate*

### please note

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, June 9** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing [chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net](mailto:chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net) with the names of your party and their choice of entree.

Reservations made after Wednesday, June 11, will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday to avoid a charge.

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.**

## Bill Farina on “U.S. Grant”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

On May 3, 1861, Illinois Governor Richard Yates appointed an obscure Mexican War veteran with Democratic sympathies and southern ties to be chief mustering officer at Camp Yates in Springfield. And so began Ulysses S. Grant’s reluctantly revived military career. Over the next three years, Grant would have a chance to display a myriad of talents few suspected, including a remarkable penchant for organization, decided skill at written communication and a quick understanding of military potential. By March 1864, Grant had risen to lieutenant general, a rank last held by George Washington.

On June 13th Bill Farina will explore the puzzle that is U. S. Grant. His talk is based on his recent book [Ulysses S. Grant, 1861-1864: His Rise from Obscurity to Military Greatness](#). Grant was indeed a hero -- a Civil War icon who deserves

all of the attention and praise he receives. But he was not a cookie-cutter warrior, nor a pillar of flawless leadership. His personal chronicle in and out of uniform reads like a melodramatic fiction. Even his name is an invention -- of his own, in fact. From his academically undistinguished West Point tenure to his forced resignation in 1854 under suspicious circumstances; from his failed pre-war business ventures to his prominent post-war political career; from his military conflict



Bill Farina

triumphs to his agonizing death, Grant remains a figure surrounded by clashing opinions about his life and legacy.

Farina does not shirk the controversies as he dissects the 36-month timeline covered in the book. It’s an exploration of Grant’s alcohol abuse, his popularity vis-à-vis Abraham Lincoln, his own admissions that luck played a large role in his battlefield victories, and how his eccentricities were woven into America’s Civil War narrative. Farina asks and answers, “What happened in between the battles?”

A descendant of Confederate army soldiers, Bill Farina was born and reared in LaPorte, Indiana.

He earned a B.A. in English and Philosophy, and then a law degree, from Valparaiso University. For the last 28 years, he has enjoyed a successful career in the real estate industry, specializing in the evaluation of affordable housing. He is currently a principal of a Chicago real estate appraisal consulting firm, and has written a book on who wrote Shakespeare’s plays. Bill and his wife live in Evanston.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

**Newtonia and Historic Ritchey Mansion Hit by Tornado:** Kay Hively of the Newtonia (Missouri) Battlefields Protection Association (NBPA) stated the following in a special insert in her group's latest newsletter: "A massive tornado swept across Newton County, from west to east, in the early evening of Saturday, May 10. The village of Newtonia took a direct hit. At this time (Sunday morning, May 11)... there is a big portion of the [Ritchey] Mansion House roof gone, [and] both chimneys are gone. Many windows are blown out. All the trusses in the roof are twisted and glass from broken windows is in the house. Most every tree is down as well as electric wires everywhere....These are the current Battles of Newtonia..."

In the weeks since the tornado, both professionals and volunteers have been working to stabilize the structure, make repairs, and clean up the site. The NBPA, which purchased the Ritchey Mansion (witness to two Civil War battles) with financial support from the CWRT of Chicago and other preservationists, has insurance on the structure; insurance does not cover outbuildings nor the cost of cleanup. To deal with this emergency and help our friends in the NBPA cope with costs not covered by insurance, the BPF committee has voted to send the Newtonia group \$2,500 from our Battlefield Preservation Fund. Individuals wishing to help may send donations to Kay Hively, 600 West Hickory, Neosho, Missouri 64850; make the check payable to "Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association."

Additional information is available on the Web site of the Civil War Preservation Trust at [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org); see the link to photos of "Ritchey House-Tornado Damage." Another useful source is the online edition of the local *Joplin (Missouri) Globe*.

**Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee Met in February:** The BPF committee of the CWRT met on Saturday, February 16, 2008 at the home of chair Rob Girardi. (All members in good standing of the CWRT are invited to attend BPF committee meetings) Those present were Mary Abroe, Jim Cunningham, Rob Girardi, Jerome Kowalski, Brian Seiter, and Bob Stoller. Minutes are as follows:

1.) BPF treasurer Mary Abroe reported that the Executive Committee of the CWRT, at its January 2008 meeting, had approved the following transfer of funds from the general treasury of the CWRT to the Battlefield Preservation Fund: \$1,000 (restricted) for the purchase of books (from Broadfoot Publishing Company) for the monthly book drawing that benefits battlefield preservation; \$5,000 (restricted) for the Glendale campaign of the Civil War Preservation Trust; and \$5,000 (unrestricted) for general preservation projects. Treasurer Abroe reported that the BPF balance prior to the aforementioned influx of monies stood at about \$5,800.

2.) \$500 commitments of the monthly book drawing/silent auction for the remainder of FY 2007-08 are as follows: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation (February); Confederate Memorial Hall in New Orleans (March); Mt. Zion Church/Aldie, Virginia (April); Glorieta Pass/unit of Pecos National Historical Park, New Mexico (May); and Fort Morgan State Park/Mobile Bay, Alabama (June).

3.) The offering of Civil War-themed notecards bearing the artwork of late member Jerry Warshaw (with a suggested donation of \$10 a box) had amassed \$200-plus thus far. Bob Stoller reported that the offering of CDs of the 2007 Washington tour (with a suggested donation of \$20

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9670 N. Dee #205  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
[www.thecwrt.org](http://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, 9670 N. Dee #205, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact [bsallardice1@earthlink.net](mailto:bsallardice1@earthlink.net).



per CD) had amassed \$380 thus far. 4.) Jerome Kowalski reported on offering CWRT members the possibility of naming the Battlefield Preservation Fund as a beneficiary on life insurance policies; he agreed to investigate further and provide information, in the form of a flyer, to the membership.

5.) The committee voted to promote/publicize the monthly book drawing and to set \$10 as a minimum bid for the monthly silent auction.

6.) The next meeting of the BPF committee will be on Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will take place at Rob Girardi's home, 8455 W. Berwyn, 2nd Floor, Chicago. If you plan to attend, please contact Rob at [cvlwarguy@aol.com](mailto:cvlwarguy@aol.com)

**CWRT Receives Letter of Thanks from Johnson's Island Group:** Dr. David Bush, chair of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison, recently expressed the following in response to the CWRT's renewal of its membership: "Thank you very much for your recent gift of \$250 to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. ...You have our continued gratitude and appreciation."

## May Meeting

BY TOM TRESMOTT

On May 9, at the 671st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, Vernon Burton spoke to 66 members and guests on "The Age of Lincoln", based on his Heartland Literary Award book of the same name. Professor Burton reminded his audience of Abraham Lincoln's legacy of idealism, how and why he formed his ideas, and how during and after the Civil War these ideas influenced modern America.

Our speaker's work stressed two major themes regarding Lincoln, the pivotal figure in 19th century American history --- that he was a Southerner (and thus must be understood as one) and that he strove for greater freedom for all. Abraham Lincoln was from anti-slavery, anti-black southern stock. Besides his storytelling ability and folksy ways, Lincoln's origins also gave him a sense of honor, and like many ambitious southerners he became a lawyer to rise in stature and gain respect (both very important to the future president). His winning over Jack Armstrong and the Cleary Grove Boys, and his "duel" with James Shields are two of the most well-known early examples of how Lincoln had the more southern, external sense of "honor", rather than the internal, more northern sense of "dignity". And Lincoln's legal training combined with his innate sense of honor to create his reverence for the rule of law, demonstrated dramatically in the Duff Armstrong trial.

In 1860, there were 200 definitions of liberty and freedom, two central ideas of the 19th century. Lincoln embraced the principle of personal liberty, and believed that in a fragile democracy with the growing inequi-

ties of capitalism in both the North and the South (Uncle Tom's Cabin can be seen as much anti-capitalism as anti-slavery), the state must be one that ensured freedom and liberty for all. Lincoln felt the visions of the Founding Fathers and Jacksonian Democracy needed to be elevated to a universal one, more in line with the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, and that this must be done by rule of law and incorporated into the Constitution. The Merrill and Land Grant Acts ("Democracy's Colleges"), the 13th -15th Amendments, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the various state civil rights laws were the legacies of Lincoln's "new birth of freedom".

Professor Burton further reminded the Round Table that the Civil War can't be separated from Reconstruction. It is usually assumed that Reconstruction was doomed to fail. But if so, why did many Southern whites have to use violence against blacks and their white allies? Meanwhile, many other southern whites stood by Lincoln's rule of law; after all, 40-45 % of white cultural southerners had fought for the Union. A number of notable Confederate officers, such as John S. Mosby, P.G.T. Beauregard, William Mahone, and James Longstreet, supported black rights.

To truly understand the age of Lincoln, our speaker went on to say, one must understand religion in the 19th century. It was a millennial and utopian age, which coalesced in the North into an anti-slavery theology. In the south, on the other hand, slavery was justified as an institution that would take care of everybody from cradle to grave. Both

sides saw themselves doing God's will, leaving no room for compromise. Lincoln saw himself doing "God's will", in a more Jewish or corporate sense of God, where God called individuals to do His work. Professor Burton called Lincoln the greatest theologian of the 19th century, and the Gettysburg Address his benediction.

Sadly, Lincoln's ideals were not being lived up to by the end of the 19th century. And the Civil War, which like most wars became one of hatred, is not over for many to this day. In an incident experienced first-hand by Professor Burton, the South Carolina Sons of the Confederacy organized a boycott of PBS in that state in protest of Ken Burns' *The Civil War* being too critical of the South. When our speaker defended the program, he was greeted with hostility and told that South Carolina "didn't lose" the war. We are still wrestling with Lincoln's ideas of moral choice, democratic citizenship, and equality.

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



On Wednesday, June 25th at 6 p.m. Senator Glenn McConnell will speak on "The Raising of the Hunley" at the **Blue Island CWRT**, 12804 Highland Ave., Blue Island. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner. For more information, phone (708) 385-3304 or visit [www.blueislandparks.org](http://www.blueislandparks.org). Senator McConnell, who was instrumental in saving the Hunley, is known for giving informative and entertaining talks.

Leslie Goddard Allardice recently made a living history presentation at the Napier Settlement's Civil War Days, portraying Clara Barton, Civil War nurse.

Lincoln scholar Frank Williams will speak on "The Debates: 150 Years Later" at the annual meeting of the **Stephen A. Douglas Association** on June 7th at the Union League Club. The noon luncheon will be preceded by ceremonies at the Douglas tomb. For more information visit [www.stephenadouglas.org](http://www.stephenadouglas.org), or call Dave Richert at (773) 761-6937.

CWRT members **Larry Hewitt**, **Bruce Allardice**, and **Leslie Goddard Allardice** will be making presentations at the Deep Delta Symposium in Hammond, LA, June 6-7, Larry on "Braxton Bragg and His Cavalry", Bruce on "General John C. Pemberton and the Struggle for Vicksburg", and Leslie on "Clara Barton: Civil War Nurse". For more information, visit [www.selu.edu/deepdelta](http://www.selu.edu/deepdelta).

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at [bsallardice1@earthlink.net](mailto:bsallardice1@earthlink.net) or (847) 375-8305.

### SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

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](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.

The **Northern Illinois CWRT** will hold its 25th annual banquet meeting Friday, June 6th, at Concorde Banquets, 20922 N. Rand Road, Kildeer. Tom Cartwright, the Franklin, TN historian, will be the featured speaker. For reservations email Tom De Franco at [t.defranco@gte.net](mailto:t.defranco@gte.net) or [t.defranco@verizon.net](mailto:t.defranco@verizon.net).

### CWRT Executive Committee

At our May meeting the following slate was elected to the CWRT Executive Committee to serve the 2008-09 year.

Jerry Allen, President  
Rae Radovich, Senior Vice President  
Tom Trescott, First Vice President  
Bob Stoller, Second Vice President  
Brian Seiter, Treasurer  
Mark Matranga, Assistant Treasurer  
Donna Tuohy, Secretary  
Paulette Whitt, Assistant Secretary  
Trustees, terms to expire in 2010: Joellen Kowalski, John Kociolko, Paula Walker, Bill Sawisch

### CWRT News

The summer meeting of the CWRT's Executive Committee is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th, starting at 9:00 a.m., at the Chicago History Museum.

On Tuesday, June 10th Marshal Krolick will speak on "Grierson's Raid" at the Union League Club CWRT. The event includes lunch, and the cost is \$25. For more information, contact (new grandfather) Frank Patton at [fpatton@sharedecisions.net](mailto:fpatton@sharedecisions.net).

### 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*.

*June 13:* **Bill Farina**,  
"U. S. Grant"

*Sept. 12:* **Pete Cozzens**,  
"The 1862 Valley Campaign"

*Oct. 17:* **Gloria Swift**,  
TBD

*Nov. 14:* **Rick Hatcher**,  
TBD

*Dec. 12:* **Craig Symonds**,  
TBD

*Jan. 9, 2009:* **James Ogden** of the  
Chickamauga NBP, TBD

*Feb. 13:* Nevins Freeman Address.  
**Bruce Allardice**, "Lincoln as a  
War Leader"

Bjorn Skaptason at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be May 31st, and feature noted authors Daniel Stowell and Daniel Mark Epstein. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit [www.virtualbooksigning.net](http://www.virtualbooksigning.net) or [www.alincoln-bookshop.com](http://www.alincoln-bookshop.com)

The **Salt Creek CWRT** will host its annual banquet meeting Friday, June 20th at the Lisle/Naperville Hilton. Tickets are \$35.00 per person. Cricket Pohanka will be speaking on "A Story of the 5th NY, Duryee's Zouaves". For more information phone Jan Rasmusen at (630) 830-7614 or email Jan at [jbarns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarns@sbcglobal.net)