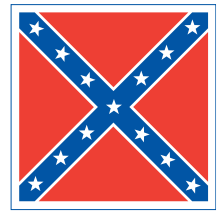


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXX, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February, 2010



## 688th REGULAR MEETING

Paul Finkelman

on

“Lincoln and Emancipation”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, February 12

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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: Lemon Chicken,  
Baked Orange Roughy,  
Vegetarian Plate or  
Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservations by Monday, Feb. 8 by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing [chicagocwrttdinner@earthlink.net](mailto: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.*

Paul Finkelman

on

“Lincoln and Emancipation”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Why was the Emancipation Proclamation issued? Abraham Lincoln’s motives have been debated by scholars and activists. Was Lincoln the “Great Emancipator”? Or was he (as one activist journalist put it) “forced into Glory”? Was the Emancipation Proclamation the ultimate statement of a man who said “If slavery is not wrong, then nothing is wrong”? Or was it the desperate act of a commander-in-chief who was losing a war? Was the Emancipation Proclamation a glorious statement of freedom, or, as the historian Richard Hofstadter put it, did it have “all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading”? Did the Proclamation prevent England from intervening in our Civil War (as Lincoln observed at the time), and thus insure the North’s triumph in that war? Or did it stiffen the South’s resolve to continue the war rather than submit to what most Southerners saw as social revolution?

Paul Finkelman, a Ph.D. (U. of Chicago) Historian and law professor, will explore the complexity of emancipation and why the emancipation proclamation was written as



Paul Finkelman

it was, and why it was issued when it was. On the 201st anniversary of Lincoln’s Birthday, we will try to better understand what America’s greatest president was doing on January 1, 1863.

A specialist in American legal history, race and the law, Paul Finkelman is the author of more than 150 scholarly articles and more than twenty-five books, including *The*

*Political Lincoln: An Encyclopedia* (2009). He is an expert in areas such as the law of slavery, constitutional law, and legal issues surrounding base-

ball. His work on legal history and constitutional law has been cited by numerous courts and in many appellate briefs. Professor Finkelman is currently the President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy and Senior Fellow in the Government Law Center, Albany Law School.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

**Gettysburg Casino Project is Back;** The Eisenhower hotel and Conference Center on the Emmitsburg Road, Business 15 North, could become a slots casino. The property includes the hotel, residential units and sports complex.

The site is five miles from the center of Gettysburg, but less than a mile from the Gettysburg National Military Park boundary.

The potential of a casino in Gettysburg, where one was not licensed in 2006 after a heated anti-casino campaign, came to light with a Nov. 24 report from The Patriot-News in Harrisburg that an unidentified investment group was interested in a Category III resort casino license in Gettysburg.

Supporters and opponents have dusted off their 2006 playbooks and are trying to influence the outcome, but much of it depends on state lawmakers.

It didn't take long after the story broke for area newspapers to report that Battlefield Harley-Davidson owner David LeVan, who lost the first casino battle, had a one-year option on the 100-acre Eisenhower property, which is owned by the estate of a Chambersburg businessman.

He at first would not comment on whether he was involved and later was quoted as saying he hadn't intended to speak about the matter for a couple of months.

His project is called Mason-Dixon Resort & Casino. LeVan's investment partner is Joseph Lashinger, a former state representative who works in the gaming industry.

LeVan's success depends on the state legislature. Legislators are considering a range of issues related to gambling and its revenues. One is if the number of state resort casino licenses will be increased from two to five, to accommodate all interested parties, including the Gettysburg group....

The state is counting on \$200 million in table games proceeds for budget commitments, but Barnes pointed out it takes six to nine months for a table games casino operation to get under way....

There's another problem for LeVan's

project- the deadline for resort applications was in July. The Gaming Control Board would have to agree to reopen the application process in order for the Gettysburg proposal and one in Reading to be considered.

LeVan's spokesman said the Gettysburg resort, if licensed, would target the Baltimore and Washington area and would go ahead as a slots casino, even if table games were not approved for resorts.

The pressure on legislators was apparent in a Dec. 18 Associated Press story by Marc Levy that began: "Penn State and several other Pennsylvania universities will get their state subsidies that are nearly six months overdue, but hundreds of state government employees could lose their jobs if a casino-expansion measure continues to flounder in the Legislature."

That was Gov. Ed Rendell's threat if the legislature doesn't approve the bill to legalize casino table games by Jan. 8 and also divert another \$ 50 million from slot machine tax revenues.

Levy's story said House Democrats wanted to add one more casino license and Republicans want to keep the number at 14. Also, there were differences on how to share the 2 percent gambling revenue tax earmarked for area communities.

Tommy Gilbert and Jeff Klein of Gettysburg reactivated Pro Casino Adams County, saying the economy has changed since 2006 and local jobs are important. Klein pointed out to the Gettysburg Times that if battlefield preservation were the issue, there should have been objection to the new motel built next to Soldiers' National Cemetery.

The No Casino Gettysburg grassroots movement headed by Susan Star Paddock also was reactivated. She summarized her objections in a Dec. 9 op ed piece in the Hanover Evening Sun.

Paddock noted the Eisenhower Center location is even closer to the battlefield than the 2006 casino location on Route 30 was, just three minutes from the line of Pickett's Charge.

She wrote that casino jobs could cost jobs elsewhere because a casino would hurt

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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.

exiting businesses, a casino could keep heritage tourists from visiting and most of the players will be local, which could lead to social costs if addictions develop.

Paddock said some state casinos have laid off workers and the mayors of Allentown and Pittsburgh said they were disappointed with their slots revenues.

From November 2006 through February 2009, during which time seven slots gaming facilities opened, more than \$3.6 billion was wagered at all state gaming facilities, according to an April 2009 report assessing how slots gaming affected the state lottery.

The report, which can be read online, said Pennsylvania slots wagering in 2008 amounted to more than \$ 20 billion. In most cases the slots sites were generating more revenue than they had for the same month the year before.

"This continued growth...runs counter to a definite downturn that is occurring in the gaming industry nationally," noted the report.

Despite the increase in slots wagering and the economy, the Pennsylvania Lottery had another records sales year of \$3.09 billion in fiscal year 2007-08.

(from the January "Civil War News")

## November Meeting

BY JACQUELINE WILSON

The 687th meeting of The Chicago Civil War Round Table found members entertained by one of their own. Robert I. Girardi, past president, and current homicide detective for the city of Chicago, presented a talk on the "Railroad Defense In the Atlanta Campaign."

The sound of a train whistle began the program as this was the sound that signified a Union victory during the Atlanta campaign.

Sherman opined that "The feeding of an army is a matter of the most vital importance and demands the earliest attention of the general entrusted with a campaign." This was the basis for Sherman's plans to take Atlanta. There could be no living off the land as the army did during the March to the Sea, as the land in this geographic area had been denuded of both food and fodder for the animals. Therefore the army supply line had to be kept intact.

In order to do this, Sherman had to devise a way to protect his 473-mile supply line. Rob stated that "every mile of the 'single track' was so delicate, that one could in a minute have broken or moved a rail." Sherman did this by planning in minute detail, using excellent engineering skills, cooperation between military and civilian authorities, military success at the front, and a successful defense strategy.

The army required 1300 tons of supplies per day plus Sherman required an additional 300 tons of supplies to stockpile in case he had to leave the supply line behind. Sherman's Quartermaster made sure that the Union Army was never short of supplies. This was a logistical wonder in this first "railroad war."

The US government created the US Military Railroad (USMRR headed by Daniel McCallum) department in Jan-

uary 1862. Its mission was to take over any railroad as needed. In Confederate territory, they rebuilt the rails in standard gauge so that all of the trains could use the track. By 1864 the Union had also created prefabricated bridges. These bridges were built using the construction techniques of Herman Haupt. Each bridge was built with interchangeable parts which were numbered to aid in the speed of rebuilding destroyed bridges. The trusses were in 60' spans and could be erected "about as fast as a dog could trot" or faster than the Rebels could burn them down. They also created two bridges at the same time, in case the first one was destroyed. At no time during the Atlanta Campaign did the railroad fall more than four days behind the army.

To protect the rail lines, Captain William E Merrill, a professional engineer and Kinsma A. Hunton of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics decided on a system of blockhouses built with 40" walls (to withstand bombardments by the enemy). Unfortunately not many of these were built due to the lack of skilled labor. What was new about the design was that the first floor was a rectangle and a second rectangle was added resting on top at a diagonal so that all approaches could be seen by the soldiers stationed in each blockhouse. The blockhouses also had a tower on top for better visuals and contained a cellar, water tank, and bunks. Telegraph lines were added for communication purposes and if any line were cut, the Union officials would know about it and could send aid.

The blockhouses were garrisoned by 10 to 20 men or sometimes up to 40 if the location was truly significant. Most of the garrisons consisted of 100-day troops, green recruits, or US Colored Troops and there were times when only a few men were present.

Breaking the railroads was about the only way to impede Sherman's advance and both General Joe Johnston and General Wheeler failed to do so. Johnston constantly asked for Nathan Bedford Forrest's help but events kept Forrest from arriving at the front. The Union kept Forrest busy in Mississippi so that he could not attack Sherman's supply line. The Union army may not have won a battle in Mississippi or Tennessee, but it was a logistical win for the North. Wheeler finally began his raid on the rails in August, but was not successful. Sherman reported that Wheeler may have damaged civilian property, but "he has injured us but little the railroads being repaired about as fast as he broke them." The total damage was one blockhouse, seven miles of track and no bridges.

Atlanta fell and then Forrest arrived with 4,000 men and six cannon. The cannon and Forrest's reputation conquered some of the blockhouses. In total 11 blockhouses, five bridges, and 22 1/2 miles of track were destroyed. However, the raid was not truly a success in that it did not hinder Sherman at all. Although the train schedule was disrupted, the track was repaired in a day.

Now that he had secured Atlanta; and Forrest, Wheeler and Hood were running amuck in his rear, Sherman determined that Atlanta could not be held and began his March to the Sea with his wagons of supplies. Sherman had his army dismantle the railroad supply line and carefully store the rails and ties for future use. He then destroyed Atlanta's railroads and marched south to the sea.

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



**Robert I. Girardi** will speak on "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign" on Feb. 5th at the Military Miniature Society of Illinois. On Friday, Feb. 12th. Rob will be a guest on Extension 720, WGN, the Milt Rosenberg show, from 9-11 p.m. The topic will be "Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War."

**Leslie Goddard** spoke on "Clara Barton" Jan. 23rd at a Civil War symposium Midway Village in Rockford. She will be presenting "Clara Barton" Feb. 15th at the Itaska Public Library, and March 6th at the Grace United Church in Park Forest.

In honor of both President's Month and Black History Month, the Lisle Public Library will host **Max Daniels** as President Lincoln and **Michael Crutcher** as abolitionist Frederick Douglass on Saturday, Feb. 28th at 2 p.m. Lisle Public Library is at 777 Front St., Lisle. The program is free and open to the public.

Our friends the **97th Regimental String Band** will perform their joyous mix of period music at the Chicago Maritime Festival. The event is this Feb. 27th at the Chicago History Museum. See [www.chicagomaritimefestival.org](http://www.chicagomaritimefestival.org) for more details.

**Bruce Allardice** will be signing his books, *Confederate Colonels* and *Kentuckians in Gray*, Saturday afternoon, Feb. 20th, at the Heritage Gallery, 1915 W. 103rd St., Chicago.

### 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.

### Upcoming Civil War Events

Jan. 30th, Kenosha Civil War Museum, 1 p.m.: "Civil War Cyclorama Panoramas" by Michael Kutzer. Visit [www.thecivilwarmuseum.org](http://www.thecivilwarmuseum.org) for more details.

Feb. 3rd, Lake County CWRT: **Charlie Banks** on "Jedediah Hotchkiss"

Feb. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Forum on Union and Confederate Generals

Feb. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Dave Noe on "The Great Camel Experiment"

Feb. 6-7th, at the Westin in Wheeling: ReenactorFest, featuring (among others) the musical stylings of our friend **Dave Corbett** and the Battlefield Balladeers.

Feb. 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Paul Finkelman on "Lincoln and Emancipation"

Feb. 14th, McHenry Co. CWRT: **Jerry Allen** on "Minnesota's Civil War", 1:30 p.m. at the Woodstock Public Library

Feb. 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Jim Cunningham** on "Nation vs. State: Origins of the Conflict"

Feb. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Michael O'Hare on "Abraham Lincoln"

March 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Marty Cain on "Mary Custis Lee"

### New Chicago Area CWRT

A group of south suburban Civil War enthusiasts are starting a Lincoln-Douglas CWRT, with meetings to be held at the Country House Restaurant in Blue Island. Programs and dates will be presented here when they become available.

## 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*.

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"

**Bjorn Skaptason** at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be noon, Jan. 30th, with **Norman Boas** talking about his new book, *Abraham Lincoln Illustrated Biographical Dictionary* and **Burrus Carnahan** on *Lincoln On Trial: Southern Civilians and the Laws of War*. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit [www.virtualbooksigning.net](http://www.virtualbooksigning.net) or [www.alincolnbookshop.com](http://www.alincolnbookshop.com).

### CWRT Executive Committee Meeting

The CWRT Executive Committee's Winter Meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 6th, at the Chicago History Museum (ex-Chicago Historical Society), 1601 N. Clark St., Chicago, in the Mandel Conference Room on the 3rd floor. Museum parking is one block north of the museum. Anyone who has a written report or other item to present at the meeting should send it to President Tom Trescott via email prior to the meeting. All CWRT members are welcome to attend. The meeting should last about 3 hours.