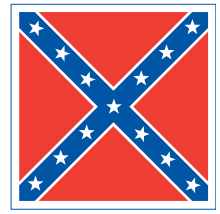


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIV, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 2014



732nd REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, June 13

★★★★★

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 Pork Loin.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, June 11, 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.

Kenneth Noe on The War in Appalachia

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

People in the mountains of Western Virginia, North Carolina and East Tennessee, though southerners, were often ambivalent about secession, in contrast to their lowland cousins. Several reasons account for his difference: long-held loyalties to the United States, distrust of lowland pro-slavery and pro-secession groups, and the view that it would be a rich man's war but a poor man's fight.

As the war progressed, local rifts tore apart families, churches, and communities. To most Appalachian residents, the real war was at home and not on some distant battlefield.

Our June speaker, Kenneth Noe, will be exploring the effects of the war on Appalachia and the split in loyalties between the Union and the Confederacy.

A native of Virginia, Ken Noe received his PhD from the University of Illinois, where he studied under the late Robert W. Johannsen. He then taught at West Georgia College for ten years before coming to Auburn in 2000. His major teaching and research areas are the American Civil War and Appalachian history. He is the author or editor of seven books, including: The Yellowhammer War: Alabama in the Civil War and Reconstruction



Kenneth Noe

(Tuscaloosa, 2014); Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army After 1861 (Chapel Hill, 2010); Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle (Lexington, 2002); and The Civil War in Appalachia: Collected Essays, co-edited with Shannon H. Wilson (Knoxville, 1997). He also has written many articles and essays, including articles in *Civil War History* and *The Journal of Military History*. He was a Pulitzer Prize entrant and the winner of the 2003 Kentucky Governor's Award, the 2002 Peter Seaborg Book Award for Civil War Non-fiction, and the 1997 Tennessee History Book Award, as well as several teaching awards. He currently is writing a book on Civil War weather.

Dr. Noe is a frequent speaker on the Civil War Round Table circuit, and a participant in the Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lectureship Program. He was the 2008-2009 president of the Alabama Historical Association. He currently serves on the Board of Editors of *Civil War History*, and was a consultant to the NBC series "Who Do You Think You Are?"



Franklin Dedicates One Battleground, Moves Houses From Future Park Site

BY GREGORY L. WADE

Franklin, Tenn. – The ongoing evolution of local battlefield parks continues with the removal of one house and another to be moved shortly from land acquired in order to create a new park.

The battleground, part of a park to be known as Carter's Hill, will soon return, at least partially, to its battlefield appearance largely thanks to the Franklin's Charge preservation group.

One of the buildings, known locally as the Neal house, was moved to another site to be used as affordable housing. Another, the Holt Home, was partially salvaged and removed a couple of years ago. In the near future, other properties will likely be moved.

Franklin's Charge is a coalition of groups formed in 2005 when another tract, now known as the Eastern Flank Battlefield, was purchased for about \$ 5 million.

This 110-acre tract, only a few hundred yards from Carter's Hill, was recently dedicated with full interpretive signage, walking paths and informational kiosks on the grounds.

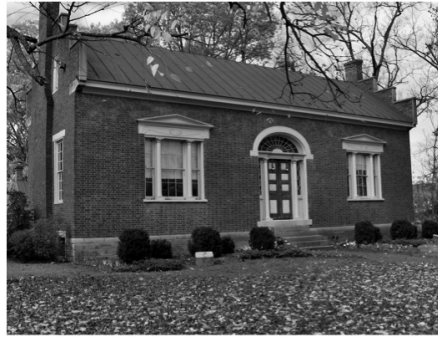
With a new access road and other improvements total investment to turn the former golf club into a park is about seven million.

The site was slated for housing until local preservationists, led by Robert Hicks, Julian Bibb and Ernie Bacon, visualized a battlefield reclamation.

This ground was the right Confederate flank of the disastrous November 30th, 1864, charge that saw the Army of Tennessee under John

Bell Hood virtually destroyed.

Bibb, a Franklin's Charge founder, said at the Eastern Flank Battlefield dedication, "We have seen the tourism experience completely change in Franklin because of bringing in so many partners and because of what we've done with battlefield preservation."



Carter House, Franklin

Carter's Hill is known as ground zero, the center part of the Federal lines that were broken during the attack and where several Confederate generals, including Patrick Cleburne, were killed. Only Federal troops plugging the gap prevented what might have been a shocking Confederate victory.

Over the years this area was covered with small retail establishments and houses, leaving the Carter House, which was in the middle of the battle, as the only place for tourists to contemplate the carnage that took place there.

Franklin's Charge has long-term goals to erect some type of cotton gin exhibit, according to board member Stacey Watson. The gin was a focal point of the battle mentioned in many battle accounts.

The gin replacement will take place when a commercial center

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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.

known as the Domino's strip is removed. It was purchased through the efforts of the local group and the Civil War Trust, which manages the property. Once current tenants are relocated, demolition will begin, it is hoped in time for the 150th battle anniversary.

Eventually there will be a core seven-acre park never thought possible to go along with the Eastern Flank park.

From the May issue of the *Civil War News*

Reminder—In 2015 the CWRT will be visiting this battlefield, as part of its Middle Tennessee tour.

Reminder—Bearss Fund

Our annual appeal for the Bearss Fund is underway. The CWRT asks for donations so that we can, during our annual battlefield tour, give Ed a check for the battlefield preservation effort of Ed's choice. Donees will get their names published in the newsletter.

May Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Dave Bastian presented “Grant’s Canal” to The Civil War Round Table at its 731st regular meeting on May 9, 2014. Bastian has devoted his career to studying rivers, starting while in college working for the Army Corps of Engineers at Vicksburg. While there, he became interested in the Vicksburg Campaign and in particular the attempt to bypass the guns on the bluffs above the town by digging a canal across the base of DeSoto Peninsula where the Mississippi took a sharp hairpin turn. After graduation, he was assigned permanently to the Corps at Vicksburg. During study of river engineering in the Netherlands, he contemplated why the canal project did not succeed. Back in Vicksburg, he commenced research and eventually saw his book published.

The peninsula is alluvial flatland formed by annual flooding, approximately 1.5 miles across and ten river miles around. The land on the Louisiana side of the river is also alluvial flatland, but the land on the Mississippi side is loess formed into bluffs which presented a formidable obstacle for ships passing Vicksburg.

The idea of a canal across the peninsula to isolate Vicksburg did not originate with Grant. Earlier in the war, as Admiral Farragut moved up river after the fall of New Orleans he secured the surrenders of Baton Rouge and Natchez without a

shot, but was stymied at Vicksburg. When shelling failed to bring about the town’s capture, Farragut attempted to re-route the river by digging a canal at the base of the peninsula. The theory was that as the elevation across the peninsula was relatively more pronounced than was the drop over the ten mile route down river, water would travel more swiftly across and down the base and carve out a new channel. Work began in June, 1862, when the river level was dropping. Although troops under General Williams and slaves impressed from local plantations made good progress, further drops in the river and a hostile climate made additional digging impractical, and work stopped in late July, 1862.

The union river fleet also progressed to Vicksburg, but the combined efforts of Farragut and his upriver comrades were unsuccessful in displacing the confederates from the Vicksburg bluffs. It was not until Grant arrived in late 1862 during a time when the river was rising that the canal project was revived. Still, digging was difficult and men were dying at the rate of 85 per day. Standing water in the canal was pumped out, but the going was slow. Grant procured two dredging machines, but by then the river had risen to the point where the levies were inundated; the dam at the head of the canal broke, result-

ing in flooded camps and an exit of troops. The dredges continued their work into March, but the canal remained within range of Vicksburg’s batteries. The dredges were under constant fire and the project was finally abandoned. Nature completed it in 1876.

Would the canal have worked. The peninsula is narrower downstream, but the elevation of the river at that point less. Bastian feels the canal’s location was a good one; what was needed were dredges operating earlier. He maintains that the dredges working at high water and using the proper cross section would have permitted enough flow and sufficient velocity to erode the soil and cut the peninsula.

A. A. Humphreys wrote a study before the war which concluded that the soil in the peninsula was too hard to permit a canal to work. Also, river lore maintained that a prominent eddy at the mouth of the canal prohibited the project. Bastian pointed out that the river itself contradicted Humphreys and that an eddy could not prevent water from flowing into the canal. With his considerable knowledge and study, Bastian makes a case for Grant’s Canal. It was not merely something to occupy the men but a legitimate opportunity for the Union to achieve its strategic goal of ‘unvexing’ the Father of Waters.

GRAPESHOT



The CWRT will hold its **annual election** of officers at the June meeting. The nominating committee slate will be announced, and nominations from the floor are accepted.

The Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha has a number of exhibits and special events planned for the summer. On Saturdays, July 19, August 16 and September 20, family-friendly reenactors will present "A Soldier's Life," a 45-minute interactive presentation. Their Friday noon **FREE** "Lunchbox Lectures" include three presentations by members of our Round Table. On June 13, **Bruce Allardice** will present "Who the Heck is Abner Doubleday? Baseball and the Civil War." On July 11, **Bjorn Skaptason** will present "United States Colored Troops and the Retreat from Brice's Crossroads." On August 8, **Larry Hewitt** will present "Lee's Finest Hour. The Wilderness Campaign." Visit <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events> for more details.

Leslie Goddard will be presenting "Clara Barton" June 5th at the Moline Public Library, and July 27th at Graue Mill in Oakbrook. On July 23rd she'll speak on the movie "Gone With the Wind" at Hartsfield Village in Munster, IN.

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

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 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT Annual Banquet: Tim Smith on "Corinth"
- June 8th, McHenry County CWRT: **Robert Girardi** on "The Murder of Maj. Gen. William 'Bull' Nelson"
- June 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: Kenneth Noe on "The War in Appalachia"
- June 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Greg Borchard on "Lincoln and Horace Greeley"
- June 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet, with Bud Hall on "General John Buford and the 8th Illinois Cavalry at Brandy Station"
- July 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Greg Clemmer on "Why the Civil War Still Lives"

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.

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*.

Aug. 15: Lance Herdegen, "The Iron Brigade"

Sept. 12: Frank Varney on "General Grant's Memoirs"

Oct. 10: Mark Bradley on "Joe Hooker, O.O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign of 1864"

Nov. 14: Steve Towne on "Civil War Espionage"

Dec. 12: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address

The Abraham Lincoln Bookshop's next **Virtual Book Signing** will take place on **Saturday, June 14, at 12:00 noon**. Gary Zola will talk about his new book, [We Call Him Rabbi Abraham](#). Also on the program is Thomas Horrocks, who will talk about this book, [Lincoln's Campaign Biographies](#).

Visit <http://virtualbooksigning.net/virtualbooksigning/> for more information.



150 YEARS AGO – JUNE 1864



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- 1st–3rd:** Battle of Cold Harbor, VA. Grant’s attack goes nowhere, with great loss of life.
- 1st:** Skirmish at Allatoona Pass, GA
- 4th:** In Ga, Joe Johnston withdraws from the Dallas-New Hope line to Lost Mountain - Pine Mountain - Brushy Mountain
- 8th:** The Union Party/Republican National Convention in Baltimore nominates Abraham Lincoln to run for President and Andrew Johnson to run for Vice-President
- 8th:** President Lincoln, nominated for a second term, calls for an amendment abolishing slavery
- 10th:** Battle of Brice’s Crossroads, MS. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest’s troops rout a Union force led by General Samuel “Pinch of Owl Dung” Sturgis
- 12th:** Battle of Trevilion Station, VA. Wade Hampton’s Confederate cavalry trun back Phil Sheridan’s Union forces.
- 14th:** While inspecting his lines, Confederate Lt. General Leonidas Polk is killed at Pine Mountain, Ga by an artillery shell.
- 15th:** Battle of Petersburg, VA. William F. Smith [US] and Winfield Scott Hancock [US], with a combined army of nearly 30,000 men are held off by General P. G. T. Beauregard with about 4,000 men. Union forces settle down for what becomes the “Siege” of Petersburg.
- 17th:** Battle of Lynchburg, VA. Jubal Early’s Confederate army defeats David Hunter’s Union forces.
- 19th:** Following an hour battle off the coast of France, the CSS Alabama sinks after being hit by several rounds from the guns of the USS Kearsarge. An English yacht rescues the crew.
- 22nd:** Battle of Kolb’s Farm, GA. John Bell Hood’s attack on Union lines is repulsed.
- 27th:** Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA. Sherman’s Union forces are bloodily repulsed.
- 28th:** Fugitive Slave Laws repealed by U.S. Congress.

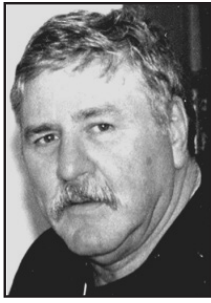
This month in the history of the Chicago CWRT

- 1964 (50 years ago):** Grady McWhiney spoke on “Confederate Defeat”
- 1989 (25 years ago):** John Y. Simon spoke on “Edward D. Baker, Ball’s Bluff, and the Politics of Command”
- 2004 (10 years ago):** Mark Bradley spoke on “The Command Partnership of Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston in 1865”
- 2009 (5 years ago):** Tom Cartwright spoke on “Cleburne and Sherman at Missionary Ridge”

Special August Meeting

The CWRT has set up a Special meeting for Friday, August 15th, to be held at the Rosewood Banquet Hall and Restaurant, 9421 West Higgins Rd., Rosemont, Illinois. The CWRT wants to see if a meeting place outside the Chicago Loop will be more convenient for our members. Author **Lance Herdegen**, an always-entertaining presenter, will speak on “The Iron Brigade”. More details will be forthcoming.

(over)



Lance J. Herdegen

Award-winning journalist Lance J. Herdegen is the former director of the Institute of Civil War Studies at Carroll University. He previously worked as a reporter and editor for the United Press International (UPI) news service covering national politics and civil rights and presently works as historical consultant for the Civil War Museum of the Upper Middle West. Herdegen is the author of many articles and is regarded around the world as the authority on the Iron Brigade. His many book credits include Those Damned Black Hats!: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign; Four Years with the Iron Brigade: The Civil War Journal of William R. Ray, Seventh Wisconsin Volunteers; The Men Stood Like Iron: How the Iron Brigade Won its Name, and In the Bloody Railroad Cut at Gettysburg.



Rosewood Banquet Hall and Restaurant

Funds Sought for 57 Acres at Glendale, Va.

Washington – The Civil War Trust is raising \$113,975 to match \$370,975 that is in place for the purchase of three tracts totaling 57 acres at the Glendale (Frayser’s Farm) Battlefield.

The Henrico County engagement was the next to last of the Seven Days’ battles during the Peninsula Campaign, followed by Malvern Hill on July 1, 1862. The target properties include two active farms and a small tract with a vacant house. Farm outbuildings and the house will be removed in the future.

According to historian Robert E.L. Krick, “These properties are highly significant areas associated with this battle. They include scenes of intense and important combat.”

Trust President James Lighthizer called the purchase the “last chance to save that storied place before it is obliterated forever by rapidly encroaching development.”

He quoted a newspaper story about developers’ interest in expanding east of Richmond, much of the area rural and forested. A developer was reported saying, “It’s no longer a question of whether it (development) is going to go in that direction, it’s a question of when.”

Lighthizer said, “I have no doubt that in less than 10 years’ time, there will be multiple houses on this land and likely even a gas station/ convenience-store-type development, which is what this land is already zoned for.”

The three tracts along the Long Bridge Road—where General James Longstreet’s and General A. P. Hill’s Confederates engaged Brigadier Gens. George McCall and Phillip Kearny’s Federals—are adjacent to and across the road from land that is part of the 619 acres the Civil War Trust has already saved.

The June 30, 1862, battle, which started with an unexpected Confederate attack and nearly killed U.S. Gen. George Meade, was one of Robert E. Lee’s best

chances to defeat Union forces under Gen. George McClellan.

According to Confederate Gen. Daniel Harvey Hill, “Had all our troops been at Frayser’s Farm, there would have been no Malvern Hill.” Confederate Maj. E. Porter Alexander wrote, “No more desperate encounter took place in the war; and nowhere else, to my knowledge, so much actual personal fighting with bayonet and butt of gun.”

Krick said preservation of the three tracts “would add to the existing three-mile corridor of protected ground from the northern end of McCall’s line all the way south to the bottom tip of the Malvern Hill battlefield.” He said there has been nothing like the preservation successes at Glendale before in Virginia. “Never before in modern times has anyone preserved a major battlefield virtually from scratch.... Once, one could not even find a safe roadside pull-off at which to pause for basic orientation; now, incredibly, almost all of the battlefield will be accessible.” For the first time visitors will be able to see where Meade was wounded and where hand-to-hand fighting raged around Union artillery and follow soldiers’ movements.

In urging support for this project, Lighthizer said, “Had this day gone differently, the entire history of the war and our nation could have played out another way.” That significance “makes this ground not only truly hallowed, but also worthy of our best efforts to protect the memory of what was done there, and it is essential to our shared American story.”

Information about the battle is at www.civilwar.org where donations may be made. Donations may also be sent to the Trust at 1140 Professional Ct., Hagerstown MD 21740.

From the May *Civil War News*