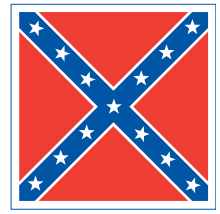


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

August 2014



733rd REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, August 15

★★★★★

ROSEWOOD RESTAURANT AND BANQUETS

9421 W. HIGGINS ROAD
ROSEMONT

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

Chicken Francaise,

Tilapia, or

Sliced Sirloin

Please Note:

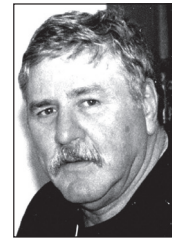
Make your reservations by Wednesday, Aug. 13, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

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.

Lance Herdegen on Gettysburg: A Fight for the Colors

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Lance Herdegen

The “Calico Boys” of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers went to Gettysburg in 1863 and fought in the epic battle of the Civil War. In the very opening of the infantry fighting on July 1, 1863, the regiment—detached from its famous Iron Brigade—ran more than a half mile to charge a Confederate Brigade. In the fighting, the flag of the Second Mississippi regiment was taken in a hand-to-hand exchange in an unfinished railroad cut northwest of town. The successful attack restored the Union position and played a key role in the outcome of the three day battle.

The Wisconsin men always remembered that moment as they stood in an open meadow under a “galling fire.” Frantically, loading and shooting, the Badgers leaned into the storm of bullets coming from the railroad cut 175 yards away. Behind the ragged line in blue, Lt. Col. Rufus Dawes watched a “fearful” and “destructive” fire crashing with “an unbroken roar before us. Men were being shot by twenties and thirties...” The young officer lifted his sword and shouted “Forward! Forward! Charge! Align on the Colors!” And then, said Cpl. Frank A. Wallar, a farmer boy turned soldier who was about to

capture a flag, “there was a general rush and yells enough to almost awaken the dead...”

Speaker Lance J. Herdegen will tell the story of how the flag of the Second Mississippi was captured at the railroad cut that July morning and what happened to the banner during the rest of the battle and long after the war.



Lance Herdegen is the author of several books on Civil War topics. His latest is *The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to*

Appomattox and Thereafter, a selection of both the History and Military book clubs. His previous book, *Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade in the Gettysburg Campaign*, won the Army Historical Foundation’s Distinguished Writing Award. Herdegen is the former director of the Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll University and presently chairs of the Wisconsin Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission and historical consultant to the Civil War Museum at Kenosha, Wis. He lives in Spring Prairie, Wisconsin.

Groups to Buy Two Critical Franklin Battle Acres for \$2.8 Million

By Gregory L. Wade
(July 2014 *Civil War News*)

Franklin, Tenn. – After many years eyeing the location, Franklin city and preservation leaders announced the \$2.8 million purchase agreement for almost two acres adjacent to and south of the Carter House.

Franklin's Charge, a coalition of local preservation groups active in land preservation since 2005, and the Battle of Franklin Trust (BOFT), which manages both the Carter House and the Carnton Plantation, are buying the property. They have one year to raise the money and complete the transaction.

The Carter House Farm, with house and outbuildings, is considered to be the center of the heaviest fighting in the Nov. 30, 1864, Battle of Franklin and had long been one of the few preserved battle areas.

The tract to be purchased from Reid and Brenda Lovell, now occupied by a florist shop and dwelling, is seen as a key piece of the rising Battle of Franklin Park at Carter Hill.

The tract has long been sought as perhaps some of the most bloodied ground in American history. After the battle the ground was so littered with dead and wounded a person could walk and not touch the ground, according to historians.

Tennessee State Historian Dr. Carroll Van West said of the benefit to future generations, "When we celebrate the bicentennial, even the tricentennial, Carter Hill will be here." Carter Hill is the name given to the overall evolving park in downtown Franklin now comprised of about 20 acres.

Among the Franklin preservationists who attended the purchase agree-

ment signing were Franklin's Charge co-founders Julian Bibb and Robert Hicks, longtime preservation leader Ernie Bacon, the mayor and several aldermen.

Alderman Michael Skinner said, "We have a history in this town of getting things done and I am sure we'll be able to complete this purchase." Skinner was involved in other projects and is a member of the City of Franklin Battlefield Preservation Commission, a municipal advisory board made up of representatives of various preservation groups. (See story about the Civil War Trust's award to the group.)

In his remarks to the crowd Reid Lovell noted his five ancestors who fought at Franklin saying, "My family and I have a 150-year relationship with this property." He said there had been other opportunities to sell the land, but it had to be "right."

It is anticipated the Civil War Trust might be involved in an advisory capacity initially helping the local entities with their applications for possible federal grants which could be a significant component of the \$2.8 million cost. At least \$1 million-plus will remain to be raised locally.

Several other tracts have been purchased in the last few years. The Civil War Trust recently contracted to buy the Eley Tract, an empty house on 0.2 acres, for \$250,000 with closing costs. It is a short walk from the Lovell land.

The Trust asked the city to match the Trust's \$62,500 contribution to meet the required match for a \$125,000 grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program.

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1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
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.

The preservation of roughly 20 acres the last several years, which was difficult in an urban environment, is one of the largest land reclamation success stories in American preservation history.

Bearss Fund

The following donated to the Ed Bearss Preservation Fund this year:

Brian Seiter, Larry Hewitt, Cindy Heckler, Kurt Carlson, Janet Linhart, Jim Cunningham, Bruce Allardice, Leslie Goddard Allardice, Muriel Underwood, Roger Rudich, Marybeth Foley, Paula Walker, Rob Girardi, Jim Patterson, Randy Doler, Tom Jaros, Jean Cairns, Jerry Schur, Terry Carr, Mark Matranga, Bob Stoller, Mary Abroe, Chuck Adams, Randy Whitchurch, Nicole Deutsch, Eric Deutsch, Jeffrey Wert, John Hussey, John Winter, Jackie Wilson, Chuck & Marilyn Bednar, Cindy Intravartolo, Maggie Wildman

This appeal raised \$2,435 for Battlefield Preservation. At Ed's direction, the money was donated to the Gettysburg Foundation.

Civil War Trust to Buy General Lee's Headquarters at Gettysburg

GETTYSBURG – For almost a century, the small, historic stone house on Chambersburg Road has been obscured by the commercial buildings surrounding it.

But in 1863, it occupied a prominent position at the epicenter of fighting on Day One of the nation's best-known Civil War battle. That night, it would be seized and used as the headquarters of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee.

On Tuesday - exactly 151 years after the start of the Battle of Gettysburg - the Civil War Trust will announce the purchase of the four-acre parcel and the restoration of the site to the way it looked in 1863.

"As far as preserving a historically significant structure and part of the battlefield, this is biggest deal we've ever done," said Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Trust, a Washington-based non-profit group that has preserved 40,000 acres of land in 20 states. "Lee's headquarters is one of the most important unprotected historic structures in America."

Lighthizer said the trust would purchase the property, which includes a Quality Inn and a brew pub, from Belmar Partnership for \$5.5 million and spend an additional \$400,000 to \$500,000 to demolish the modern structures and restore the historic building.

On July 1, 1863, the property was the scene of violent hand-to-hand

combat between advancing Confederate troops and Union troops attempting to protect the western entrance to the town and the railroad line, which still runs behind the parcel.

By day's end, Union troops had retreated to Seminary Ridge, and Lee, the Confederate commander, established his headquarters at the house.

"It was the nerve center," historian and licensed Gettysburg battlefield guide Tim Smith said in a video produced for Tuesday's announcement at the Lee headquarters.

The house, believed to have been built in 1833, was occupied by a widow named Mary Thompson at the time of the war and was co-owned by U.S. Rep. Thaddeus Stevens - a force behind the passage of the 13th Amendment ending slavery.

The headquarters building was opened as a museum in the early 1920s in connection with the motel on the site.

Lighthizer said the artifacts, which were to be donated to the trust by the owners, would be sold and the building restored to the way it looked when Lee and his officers plotted strategy under its roof.

Lee would go on to defeat July 3 and retreat south after losing thousands of men in what is considered

the turning point of the war.

"This spot is where some of most important decisions were made by an American general in the Civil War," said Lighthizer. "It had direct impact on the future of the country."

He said that there was no timetable for the restoration project or reopening the house after demolition of the modern buildings, but that the whole parcel would be donated to the National Park Service for inclusion in the Gettysburg National Military Park.

"To the preservation community, this land was long considered lost," Deputy Secretary of the Interior Mike Connor said in a statement. "Thus, the journey we embark upon today is especially meaningful: We are not just protecting a piece of American heritage, we are reclaiming it for future generations."



Lee's Headquarters, from the L of C

From the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, July 2, 2014

GRAPESHOT



The Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha has a number of exhibits and special events planned for the summer. On Saturdays, 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 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 speak on the movie "Gone With the Wind" at Hartsfield Village in Munster, IN, July 23rd. Leslie will present "Clara Barton" July 27th at the Graue Mill Museum in Oak Brook, Aug. 13th at Harvard Diggins Library, and Aug. 17 at Blackberry Farm. Visit www.lesliegoddard.info for more information.

On Aug. 23rd **Bruce Allardice** will speak on "The Election of 1864" for the Historic Fullersburg Foundation, at the Oakbrook Public Library. He will speak on "Baseball and the Civil War" Sept. 16th for the Flag Creek Historical Society. Visit www.civilwarbruce.com for more.

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

- July 25th-27th, Four Seasons Park, Lombard: Sweet's Civil War Reenactment
- Aug. 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Richard Stilling on "the Murder of John Wilkes Booth"
- Aug. 15th, **Chicago CWRT**: Lance Herdegen on "Gettysburg: Fight for the Colors". Meeting to be held at Rosewood Banquets in Rosemont
- Aug. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: John Rodrigue on "Lincoln and Reconstruction"
- Sept. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Charles Knight on "Battle of New Market"
- Sept. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "The Baltimore Riots"

On Saturday, Aug. 16th, the CWRT of Chicago will hold its annual summer **Executive Committee Meeting**. The meeting is at the Chicago History Museum, and starts at 9 a.m. All members are welcome to attend. Discounted museum parking is one block north of the CHM at Clark and LaSalle Streets.

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*.

- 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
- Jan. 9, 2015: John Horn on "George Barnard and the 12th Virginia Infantry"
- Feb. 1: Leslie Goddard on "Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory"
- March 13: Thomas Huntington on "Searching for George Gordon Meade"
- April 10: Michael Burlingame on "The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln"
- May 8: Eric Leonard on "Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville"
- June 12: Garry Adelman on "4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza"

Call for Papers on Chicago and the Civil War

The Spring 2015 issue of Chicago History Magazine will be devoted to the Civil War and post-war era in Chicago. They are seeking papers of 4,000-5,000 words. Proposals are due Aug. 1, 2014; manuscripts are due Oct. 1, 2014. Authors will receive an honorarium of \$500 upon publication. Contact Rosemary Adams, editor, at adams@chicagohistory.org for more information.

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. Ample **FREE** parking is available. It is within walking distance of the Rosemont/River Road el station. Author **Lance Herdegen**, an always-entertaining presenter, will speak on “Gettysburg: Fight for the Colors.”



Lance J. Herdegen



Rosewood Banquet Hall and Restaurant

For Map/Directions to the Rosewood Restaurant, see below, visit www.rosewoodrestaurant.com or phone 847 696-9494.

