

## The Nevins-Freeman Address *Jim Lighthizer on: Battlefield Preservation*

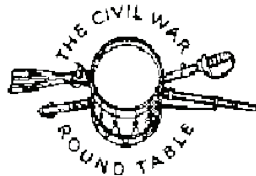


On October 11th Jim Lighthizer, President of the American Battlefield Trust, will discuss the history of Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Civil War battlefield preservation in America, and how place-based education on this land can teach present and future generations of Americans about their country's history, values and culture. Many of our nation's most important principles and ideals were made real on battlefields through the sacrifices of citizen soldiers, and place-based

Arundel County, Md. Jim's years of public service began in 1979 when he was elected to the Maryland State Legislature. In 1982, he was elected to the first of two terms as Anne Arundel County Executive, where he successfully managed a full-service budget in excess of \$800 million. In 1991, Jim was appointed as Maryland's Secretary of Transportation. Jim created

an unprecedented program that to date has saved more than 4,500 acres of Civil War battlefield land in Maryland and is

the national model for the use of Transportation Enhancement funds for battlefield preservation. In December 1999, Jim accepted the presidency of the organization now known as the American Battlefield Trust, and more than 50,000 acres of battlefield land have been saved throughout his tenure.



### 785th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, October 11th, 2019

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Holiday Inn O'Hare  
5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago

*Cocktails at 5:30 pm*

*Dinner at 6:30 pm*

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTREE  
BUFFET STYLE.

teaching effectively tells this story of the creation and defining of the United States, warts and all: one of the greatest ever told.

James Lighthizer is president of the American Battlefield Trust. Prior to his tenure at the Trust, he served as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation and two terms as County Executive of Anne

### PRESERVATION NEWS

This is from the Friends of Raymond battlefield. Our CWRT donations are making a difference!

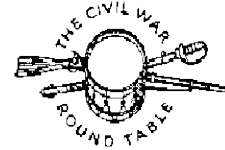
"I have been working all summer to research and design a series of 23 interpretive markers for the Raymond battlefield and City of Raymond. That work has been completed, and due to the donations of \$500 and \$1,000 made by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago this past spring during the Vicksburg tour, Friends of Raymond will honor the roundtable with sponsorship of two of the new Raymond interpretive markers. These markers will be installed later this year after the cotton crop on the battlefield has been harvested. Attached are renderings of the two markers allocated to the Chicago roundtable. Marker 13 discusses the flanking fire of COL E. S. McCook's 31st Illinois, and will be placed where

his regiment changed front to deliver this devastating fire into the flank and rear of the 3rd Tennessee.

Friends of Raymond wishes to again thank the roundtable for its support of the preservation mission of Raymond and of the Vicksburg Campaign. It was a pleasure meeting and working with the group. We hope you come back soon.

Parker Hills, Brig. Gen. (Ret.)  
119 Lake Forest Lane  
Clinton, MS 39056

### THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
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.

### FLANKING MANEUVERS

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Infantry, after routing the 23<sup>rd</sup> Indiana north of Fourteenmile Creek, took advantage of its success and rushed across the creek. Col. Walker reported that the Federals attempted to rally in the creek bed "with almost perpendicular banks, but our advance was so rapid that the enemy again gave way and fled out of the woods into the open field. There they planted their colors in the open ground, and made another effort to rally around them, but a sharp volley from our side speedily dispersed them." However, a third Union brigade (Stevenson's) had arrived on the field, and a relieved soldier of the 20<sup>th</sup> Ohio wrote: "At last the rear brigade of our division got up and went in on the right where the Johnnies were again ready to make a flanking rush. Our fresh brigade went in with will and effects." As Walker's Tennesseans emerged from the woods along the creek, a slight furrow on their left, choked with foliage and extending a few yards out of the woods and into the field, masked their view. Just south of that foliage stood Col. McCook's 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois, which was facing east, expecting an attack from that direction. McCook ordered the regiment to wheel to the left, and Walker recalled that, "... upon reaching the edge of the woods, I received a heavy volley into the rear of my left flank." The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee moved to its right and into the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois. During this fighting Lt. Col. Evan Richards commanding the 20<sup>th</sup> Illinois was killed.

In 2011 the firing line of the 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois was determined through archaeological investigation. A number of dropped, or unfired, .69 caliber and .58 caliber Minié balls were found, as well as several fired .69 caliber round balls, indicating that the 31<sup>st</sup> used at least two different caliber rifle-muskets, and that at least some soldiers of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee used .69 caliber smoothbores.

Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago

### BATTLE ENDS

The 7<sup>th</sup> Texas and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee were finally forced to withdraw, and Gregg realized that he was facing more than one Union brigade. As his reserve regiment, the 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee, arrived on this hilltop, orders were sent to McGavock's 10<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> to march to support the 41<sup>st</sup>. McGavock's Tennesseans hurried off to the right and went into position on the left of the 41<sup>st</sup>, while the battered and disorganized 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee limped to the rear. As for the Texans, Granbury wrote that, "the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee, having previously withdrawn, the enemy had doubled around my left flank, and were pouring a murderous enfilading fire along my already shattered ranks. I then ordered a retreat." As the Texans fell back, three companies marched across the field to fight on the new line with the two fresh Tennessee regiments. Meanwhile, as the Union line paused in the woods north of the creek, the Federal 7<sup>th</sup> Missouri debouched from the woods and impetuously charged uphill toward McGavock's line. McGavock was already receiving Federal artillery fire, and rather than retreat or remain and continue to be shelled, he ordered a charge downhill into the Missourians. Very soon a sharpshooter cut McGavock down, and his infuriated soldiers slammed into the blue line, driving it back into the woods. The Missourians rallied under the covering fire of the 31<sup>st</sup> Illinois, and the Tennesseans fell back to the top of the hill and stood fast. The Missourians pressed up the hill a second time, only to be beaten back. To the south, Beaumont's 50<sup>th</sup> Tennessee, after its aborted attack, was guarding the Gallatin Road, and finally marched toward the sound of the guns. At the same time, Gregg, believing the Gallatin Road was uncovered, ordered the 41<sup>st</sup> to march to it. The two regiments simply exchanged positions in the fog of war. The Federal numbers soon forced Gregg to abandon the field and fall back through Raymond toward Jackson. Colm's 1<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Battalion feigned an attack and there was no Union pursuit.

Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago

## THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST

The **American Battlefield Trust** is a charitable organization (501(c)(3)) whose primary focus is in the preservation of battlefields of the American Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 through acquisition of battlefield land. The American Battlefield Trust was formerly known as the **Civil War Trust**. On May 8, 2018, the organization announced the creation of the American Battlefield Trust as the umbrella organization for two divisions, the **Civil War Trust** and the Revolutionary War Trust, which was formerly known as "Campaign 1776." The name American Battlefield Trust reflects the organization's expanded mission, announced in 2014, of saving land at battlefields of the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 as well as the American Civil War. The American Battlefield Trust also promotes educational programs and heritage tourism initiatives to inform the public about these three conflicts and their significance in American history. Since 1988, the Trust and its federal, state and local partners have preserved land in 24 states at more than 130 battlefields of the Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. More than 10,000 of the acres have been acquired and preserved since 2014.

### HISTORY

The modern battlefield preservation movement was first undertaken by the **Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites** (APCWS), which was founded in 1987 to save Civil War battlefield land. APCWS acquired thousands of acres of battlefield land as well as offering

educational tours and seminars with prominent historians.

The original **Civil War Trust**, a second non-profit focused on preserving Civil War battlefields, was formed in 1991. The Civil War Trust helped acquire and preserve 6,700 acres of land in the eight years of its existence and conducted education and heritage tourism programs to educate the public about the significance of the war and of battlefield preservation.

The **Civil War Preservation Trust** was created on November 19, 1999, through the merger of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) with the Civil War Trust. The merger, which was propelled by a unanimous vote of both boards, was effected to streamline efforts to protect America's most endangered parcels of Civil War history by acquisition of battlefield lands. On January 11, 2011, the Civil War Preservation Trust shortened its name to the Civil War Trust, and added a new logo.

Since its formation, the Trust has grown to nearly 200,000 members and supporters.

### PRESERVATION METHODS

The American Battlefield Trust is a membership-driven organization that uses donated funds to protect battlefield land from the Civil War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Land is acquired by the American Battlefield Trust from private sector parties at fair market value or by donation. Once land is acquired, the Trust is responsible for land stewardship and interpretation,

often with assistance from local governments and other preservation groups.

In cases where a landowner wants to retain ownership the Trust can arrange a conservation easement to protect their property. Conservation easements prohibit development of property, conserving it in its present state.

In its effort to American battlefields, the American Battlefield Trust attempts to leverage federal and state programs designed to foster preservation of historic and natural resources. The primary source of federal support for the preservation of Civil War battlefields is the **Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program** (CWBPP), administered by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), an office of the National Park Service. CWBPP is designed to promote the preservation of significant Civil War battlefields by offering competitive matching grants for qualifying preservation opportunities. Other federal sources include the Transportation Enhancement program and the Farm and Ranch Protection Program. The American Battlefield Trust has also leveraged funds made available by state and local governments.



## GRAPESHOT



The **Civil War Museum** of Kenosha, WI, is hosting the following public programs and workshops this month:

**2nd Friday Lunchbox Series, Friday, Oct. 11, 2019; Noon**

**Benjamin F. Butler: A Man with Many Nicknames**

Presented by Ron Carlson. Benjamin Butler was known as “Beast,” “Spoons,” and “Bottled Up.” He was famous for ill treatment of civilians, stealing from southerners, and military incompetence. Mr. Carlson’s presentation will address the accuracy of the “common knowledge” concerning Butler and his military career.

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

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**Rob Girardi** will speak on October 9 to the Deerfield Questors on “Chicago’s Memory of the Civil War.” For more on Rob, visit <https://www.robertgirardi.com/>

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**Larry Hewitt** spoke on “Fighting Dick Anderson” to the Scottsdale (AZ) CWRT Sept. 17th and to the Brunswick (NC) CWRT on October 1.

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**Leslie Goddard** will speak on “Gone With the Wind” Oct. 4th at the McHenry County College RAP, and on “Louisa May Alcott” Oct. 1 at the Warrenville Public Library. For more on Leslie, visit [www.lesliegoddard.info](http://www.lesliegoddard.info).

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

### Please Note

Make your Reservations by Sunday, Oct 5, by emailing [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto:dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org), or calling 630-460-1865 with the names of your party.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please email us at [dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org](mailto: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 FREE.

## MORE UPCOMING LOCAL CIVIL WAR EVENTS

Oct. 3-4, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library: Conference on Illinois History

Oct. 4-5, Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County: Civil War Symposium

Oct. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Jerry Allen on “The 8th Wisconsin”

Oct. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Lawrence Schiller on “The First Day of Gettysburg: The Cavalry”

Oct. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Jim Lighthizer on “Battlefield Preservation”

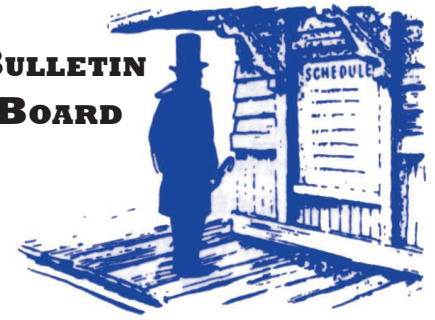
Oct. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Steve Davis on “A Long and Bloody Task: The Atlanta Campaign”

Oct. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Kevin Wood on “Lincoln and Immigration”

Oct. 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Ted Karamanski, “Blue and Gray on Brown Water: Inland Waters as the Key to Civil War Victory”

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](mailto:editor@chicagocwrt.org) or (630) 297-8046

## BULLETIN BOARD



## FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

**Nov. 8th:** Ethan Rafuse on The War in Missouri: The Military Problem

**Dec. 13th:** Daniel Weinberg on Musings of a Collecting Voyeur

**Jan. 10th:** Pam Toler on Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War

**Feb. 14th:** Connie Langum on Wilson’s Creek

**Mar. 13th:** David Sutherland on VMI’s Civil War Legacy

**Apr. 17th:** Michael Shaffer on Recollections of the 1st Virginia Cavalry

**May 8th:** Wil Greene on The Petersburg Campaign

**June 12th:** Brian Wills on George Henry Thomas

## HOUSE DIVIDED

The next House Divided broadcast will be October 4th, at three, with David Hirsch and Dan Van Haften talking about their new book on the communication style of Abraham Lincoln, The Tyranny of Public Discourse. For more, visit [alincolnbookshop.com](http://alincolnbookshop.com).

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Janet Croon told the fascinating story of Leroy Wiley Gresham which she mined in her new book, "The War Outside My Window: The Diary of Leroy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865," in her address to The Civil War Round Table at its 784<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on September 113, 2019. Born in 1847 to John Jones Gresham (1812-1891) and Mary Eliza Baxter (1822-1889), Leroy had four siblings: Thomas Baxter (1844-1933), Edmund (1845-1846), Mary 'Minnie' (1849-1931), and Edward (1851-1853). The Gresham's were a prominent planter family: Leroy's father owned approximately 100 slaves and two plantations in Macon and Houston County, Georgia.

Leroy kept the diary throughout the war years, making almost daily observations on the secession crisis and the course of the war but also describing his family and surroundings. It is as complete a civil war diary from a young person as exists. He had lived the life of a normal young boy until he suffered a devastating injury at age 12 when his left leg was crushed by a falling chimney. Later, abscesses formed on his back due to being virtually bedridden. His mother gave him the diary when his father took him to Philadelphia in 1860 to seek a cure.

Although invalided, Leroy was not reclusive as he would be carted around town in a wagon. He was considered by all to be wickedly smart as well as curious and opinionated. He tended not to say negative things about family and friends and had good relationships with everyone. Croon observes, however, that his feelings toward his older brother seemed to change as Thomas grew older and entered Confederate service.

Leroy was well educated, an omnivorous reader who loved mathematics, science, and astronomy. He was an avid and adept chess player. Croon describes him as "a sweet kid," who was talkative, inquisitive, funny and kind.

The diary contains descriptions of the many facets of life in an upper-class Southern household. Leroy wrote of the food they ate, the clothes they wore, and conversations that were had with visitors. Church was an especially important part of his life and occupied a significant part of the diary which also refers to his Bible studies. His father was an elder in the Presbyterian Church who entertained many prominent church officials. Croon recounted that members of President Woodrow Wilson's family were guests in the Gresham home. Leroy wrote of his family's interactions with these visitors and of family members such as his Aunt Eliza who were influential in his life.

Of course, Leroy followed the course of the war. He idolized Jefferson Davis and despised Georgia Governor Joseph Brown. His opinions mirrored his father's, but these changed

somewhat as the fortunes of war swung away from the cause. He apparently mined papers and magazines for information; he also learned of events from uncles in service. He saw some of the war when it came to his part of Georgia in 1864. Croon points out that the diary reflects how slowly those on the home front learned of the true nature events on the battlefield.

Leroy also mentions the family slaves and does not avoid pejorative terms common to that time. But he mentions certain slaves by name and spoke of gradual emancipation. Poignantly, he once said he wished he didn't own a slave.

Tragically, Leroy was dying: his diary chronicled the decline of the Old South as his health deteriorated. The lesions on his back were Pott's Disease, a manifestation of tuberculosis. He wrote about his symptoms which required increasing doses of morphine and alcohol. He eventually succumbed on June 8, 1865, his mother at his side. He wrote of a culture at its peak but did not live to experience the impact of defeat on his family's way of life.

Janet Croon considers Leroy Gresham's diary a 'Jewel' in the Library of Congress. And it is: an insider view of a southern planter family, the only teenage male non-combatant account of the war, and a detailed description of the course and treatment of TB in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Her research and book are estimable achievements.

## **The Nevins - Freeman Award**

In 1974, The Civil War Round Table of Chicago established the Nevins-Freeman Award, and bestows it annually on an individual whose advancement of American Civil War scholarship and support for the Round Table movement warrant special recognition. The award itself is designed as a generous financial donation to a historical preservation project chosen by the recipient.

The very first Nevins-Freeman recipient was famed author Bruce Catton, a Civil War Round Table of Chicago charter member. Other winners include Ralph G. Newman (1975), T. Harry Williams (1976), Ed Bearss (1980) and Bud Robertson (1981).

We're proud to announce that the 2019 Nevins-Freeman Award is presented to esteemed preservationist **James Lighthizer**.