



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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799th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, March 12th, 2021

The Nevins-Freeman Address

Greg Biggs presents:

“The Question Was One of Supplies: The Logistics of William T. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign.”

Zoom Meeting. Time: Mar. 12, 2021 07:30 PM CST

Zoom Meeting ID: 810 9963 3523. Passcode: 570450



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. Past recipients have included Bruce Catton, James McPherson, and Marshall Krolick. This years distinguished recipient is historian Greg Biggs.

The French military master Napoleon is said to have observed, "An Army Travels on Its Stomach." More modern military experts observe: "Amateurs talk strategy and Tactics. Professionals Talk Logistics."

On March 12th Greg Biggs will be discussing the difficulties that General William T. Sherman encountered in supplying his troops during the Atlanta campaign. No army in history moved without a secure line of supplies especially if it moved into enemy territory. If an army got cut off from its supplies then calamity usually followed often ending in defeat and/or destruction. When William T. Sherman set his sights on Atlanta he prepared for the supplying of his army in a manner that surpassed every other Civil War general. Rebuilding railroads and confiscating

locomotives and cars to haul supplies, Sherman set a daily goal for shipments to his forward base in Chattanooga. Ruthless in making sure that only supplies got on the cars, Sherman also had to worry about protecting the line of rails that ran back to Louisville, Kentucky from Confederate raiders. Building on a system begun by William S. Rosecrans, Sherman's engineers built forts and blockhouses and prepared pre-fabricated trestles for replacing those brought down by Confederate raiders. While his preparations were masterful and thorough, they were not without some flaws. This program will examine the nuts and bolts of these logistics and cover the errors that were also made. In the end, his supply line performed as expected and Atlanta was captured. This set the stage for two more campaigns that Sherman would undertake before the war ended in April 1865.

Greg has been a student of military history from the Spartans through modern times for over 45 years. His Civil War articles have been published in *Blue & Gray magazine*, *Civil War Regiments journal*, and local publications. Greg is also a Civil War flags historian and has consulted with many museums and authors and has presented flags programs to the Museum of the Confederacy and the National Civil War Museum. Greg has lectured across the country on Civil War topics primarily on flags and the Western Theater as well as the Revolutionary War. Greg leads tours of the Fort Donelson Campaign, the Tullahoma Campaign, the Atlanta Campaign and Where the River Campaigns Began: Cairo, IL to Columbus/Belmont, KY for Civil War groups, individuals and U.S. Army Staff Rides. He is the president of the Clarksville Civil War Roundtable and an officer of the Nashville CWRT. A good friend of our CWRT, Greg last spoke here in 2016.

Battlefield Preservation

Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument Added to National Park System



Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument has been added to the National Park System, becoming the 421st unit. The battlefield site, in Kentucky, was the site of the first major victory for the Union Army during the Civil War.

“I am pleased to announce the addition of Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument to the National Park Service,” said Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Tuesday. “President Trump’s administration and Senate Majority Leader (Mitch) McConnell have worked closely on this important initiative.”

Battlefield land for the new national monument was acquired through donations from the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and Pulaski County, Kentucky.

“In Kentucky, Union forces took their first steps toward winning the Civil War and ending slavery in the United States. I’m proud Mill Springs Battlefield and our Commonwealth’s contributions to the cause of liberty are receiving national recognition,” said McConnell. “Building on the progress of the Battlefield Association, Congressman Hal Rogers and I introduced and led to enactment a measure to preserve Mill Spring’s place in American history. I’m grateful for Secretary Bernhardt’s support to protect this national monument, and I gladly welcomed him and my good friend Congressman Rogers to my U.S. Capitol office for the official signing ceremony.”

“We have worked with this driven local community for many years—since some of my first days in Congress—to preserve the Mill Springs Battlefield piece-by-piece. Today’s signing fulfills a long-time dream of the members of the Mill Springs Battlefield Association and so many in southern Kentucky who have worked tirelessly to ensure that this hallowed ground becomes a well-known piece of American history,” said Rogers. “Adding Mills Springs, the site of the first major Union victory in the Civil War, to the National Park System is another victory for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on this battlefield for a stronger union.”

Mill Springs Battlefield memorializes the Union’s victory on Jan. 19, 1862, which led to the collapse of the eastern sector of the Confederate Army’s defense of the Upper South. The Battle of Mill Springs helped to maintain Kentucky’s Union affiliation throughout the war and offered more than a strategic victory for the Union Army. It served as a national rallying call heralded by the Union and provided a much-needed boost to morale, helping to re-energize Northern war interests.

Among other features, Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument preserves Zollicoffer Park, the centerpiece of the core battlefield area, which was conveyed by Pulaski County to the Park Service. Zollicoffer Park is named for Confederate General Felix K. Zollicoffer, a former U.S. Congressman who was killed in action at Mill Springs in the failed attempt to secure Kentucky for the Confederacy. Zollicoffer Park is the site of the famed “Zollie Tree,” sown from the original white oak tree where the body of Zollicoffer was placed after he was shot during the battle.

The visitor center, donated by Mill Springs Battlefield Association, is located in Nancy, Kentucky, and orients visitors to the central stories of Mill Springs. Visitors to the new national monument can begin a 10-stop, self-guided driving tour of the battlefield from the visitor center.

The visitor center and Zollicoffer Park were previously managed by Mill Springs Battlefield Association with support from Pulaski County and are currently open to the public. During the initial transition of management and operations, the Park Service, Mill Springs Battlefield Association, and Pulaski County will partner to provide visitor information and manage park resources.

The new national monument was authorized by the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act of 2019, which was signed into law by President Trump. (from National Parks Traveler)

February Meeting

By Mark Matranga



Leslie Goddard regaled The Civil War Round Table at its 799th Regular Meeting on February 12, 2021, with her presentation of “Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse.” Goddard, an author and scholar who portrays notable American women, portrayed a woman who not only ‘led from the front’ in her nursing work and who served our country in the post-war period as well. Although shy by nature, Barton tended to overcome her natural tendencies when she set about her work.

Born Clarissa Harlowe Barton on Christmas Day in 1821 in North Oxford, Massachusetts. She became a teacher while still a teenager and eventually was hired to start a school in New Jersey in 1852 where she was quite successful. But when the school expanded due to her good work, the board passed her over for principal, thinking this to be a ‘man’s job,’ resulting in her leaving her position and abandoning the teaching profession.

She moved to Washington D.C. in 1854, a place she considered “a frontier town.” She secured a clerk position in the U.S. Patent Office making \$14 a month, the same salary as the men. This unprecedented event and her abolitionist sentiments caused resentment among the men and her position was eventually lowered to a copyist and her pay reduced, causing Barton to resign after two years. She left the capitol but returned to the Patent Office temporarily after Lincoln’s election, hoping to pave the way for more women to secure government work.

Everything changed for Clara after the Baltimore Riots in April 1861. Hearing that her hometown regiment, the 6th Massachusetts had been involved and were being sent to the Capitol Building, she arrived there and tended to the wounded, one of whom, Simon, was one of her former students. This event energized Clara as she nursed the men, reading to them, helping them write letters home, and offering emotional support. Later, after the battle of First Manassas, she saw that union medical supplies were not adequately brought to the front and went to work to remedy this system. She began to gather and store medical supplies via donations and advertisements in local papers and soon had an ample store of supplies and workers ready to work with the army.

Heretofore, nursing had been performed by other soldiers, so there was resistance to having others provide this service, especially women. But Clara was able to convince the Quartermaster, Colonel Rucker, to provide her with wagons so that she could work on the front lines – this was after she showed him that she had three warehouses of supplies but no means of distributing them. She began her work at the battle of Cedar Mountain, where she stayed on the battlefield “when the bullets were flying.” After the battle of Chantilly, noting that medical supply wagons were always at the tail of the miles long army trains, she started her medical wagons up during the night so that they would be near the fighting when it started.

At Antietam, Clara performed her work on the battlefield near the Cornfield, attracting the notice of the medical staff. She was shot through her sleeve while tending a wounded man under fire and operated on a man’s face. She described the terrible casualties and the endurance of the men she served. She found extra food and was able to provide supplies when the medical corps had exhausted theirs, providing candles for surgeons to operate throughout the night. On the way back to Washington after the battle, Barton was struck with weariness at the desolation and anguish of war, and its enormous cost.

After the war, Clara ran the Office of Missing Soldiers dedicated to finding the many thousands of soldiers who had been hastily buried or had died in prisoner of war camps, most notably Andersonville, where she oversaw the burial of 13,000 dead. This task of finding missing soldiers stemmed from the thousands of letters reaching the War Department after the war from relatives who inquired after their loved ones. She and her assistants worked for four years to identify and bury 20,000 missing soldiers. The government paid her \$15,000 for this, years later.

Leslie described the work done on the Missing Soldiers Office Museum which is operated by the National Museum of Civil War Medicine on 7th Street in Washington, D.C. The building was about to be demolished in 1997 when numerous artifacts were found in a third-floor attic; this saved the building and an important piece of history.

Clara Barton was a pioneer who with no formal training revolutionized wartime nursing. She was the founder of the American Red Cross, but she will always be known for her indefatigable work for her ‘soldier boys.’ Dr. Dunn, a surgeon at Antietam, called her “the true hero of the age, the Angel of the Battlefield.” No better accolade than that need be given. And no better way to be introduced to this American hero than by Leslie Goddard.

Marshall Krolick Passes Away



Our friend Marshall Krolick passed away Feb. 17th, in Florida, at age 82. His many friends in the CWRT will remember him as our former president, many-time speaker, Nevins-Freeman Awardee, and tour guide. I can do no better than to quote from his obituary:

“Marshall D. Krolick, age 82 of Weston, FL, formerly of Northbrook, IL. Devoted husband of his high school sweetheart and beloved wife of almost 60 years, Roberta (nee Anders). Cherished

by his children Andrea, Debra, and Jordan (Kim), son-in-law Scott Ulick, and grandsons Danny, Jeremy, and Drew, who feel lucky that he was their father and grandfather. Beloved brother-in-law to Phyllis (Bob) Jacob, Dennis (Estra) Anders, and the late Gary (Shelly) Anders. Adored son of the late Morey and Dorothy (nee Blank) Krolick, and much-loved son-in-law of the late Archie and Freda (nee Mondrus) Anders. Graduate of Von Steuben High School, Drake University and Northwestern Law School.

Marshall’s vocation was commercial and industrial real estate law as partner at Deutsch, Levy, & Engel, but his avocation was Civil War historian. He was a nationally-recognized expert, published author, battlefield tour guide, and frequent speaker, with particular expertise on the Battle of Gettysburg and the 8th Illinois Cavalry. He joined The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in 1961, later serving as President, and as editor of its newsletter. He received the CWRT Nevins-Freeman Award in 1990 for distinguished scholarship and dedication to Civil War studies, and received Honorary Life Membership in 1985. His published works include articles in most of the major Civil War magazines, and he was for several years a columnist for Civil War Times Illustrated. In recent years, Marshall enjoyed being a docent at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, WI.

Throughout his life, Marshall volunteered generously at countless organizations. Those who met Marshall quickly recognized that he was skilled, dedicated, and a man of integrity. He served as President of Congregation B’nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, President of Ravinia Green Country Club, Executive Vice President of the Les Turner ALS Foundation, 21-year member of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Northbrook, IL, founding Board Member of HAAPE, and Board member of Temple Dor Dorim. He was Vice Chairman, Committee Chair, and later Honorary Board Member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the international organization representing nearly 850 Reform Jewish synagogues in North America. He supported many other historical organizations, including other Civil War Round Tables, the Gettysburg Foundation, the Chicago Historical Society, American Jewish Historical Society, Southern Jewish Historical Society, Chicago Jewish Historical Society, and several preservation associations.

Marshall loved to play golf (the only time he didn't wear cowboy boots) and gin rummy, and was a valued trivia team member. He was a connoisseur of East Carolina BBQ, Chicago hot dogs, and all kinds of condiments. He was a longtime season ticket holder of his beloved Chicago Cubs and of the Chicago Bears, and faithful fan of the Chicago Blackhawks. He always appreciated getting and giving a good laugh. Marshall will truly be missed by his extended family, his countless loyal friends (both lifelong and recent), and his many admirers."

He will be missed.



BULLETIN BOARD

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on programs which can be watched on facebook:

Scotland and the Civil War

Friday, March 12 | Noon | Presenter: Dr. David Silenat |

Dr. David Silkenat of the University of Edinburgh discusses the role of Scotland in the American Civil War, including the 50,000 Scots who fought in the war, Scotland in the abolition movement, the construction of blockade runners in Scottish ports, and the lasting influence that the American Civil War had on Scotland.

Coffee, Hardtack and Baseball

On March 1st the museum interviewed Professor Bruce Allardice on the topic of baseball during the Civil War. The recorded interview will be broadcast later.

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

The **Congress of Civil War Round Tables** is sponsoring a series of virtual Civil War Lectures by some of the nation's leading historians.

Visit <http://www.cwrtcongress.org/lectures.html> to view the complete schedule and register

Leslie Goddard will be presenting “Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse” March 17th at the Palatine Public Library. She will be speaking on “Gone With the Wind” March 16th to the Twin Cities CWRT. Visit lesliegoddard.info for more.

On March 3rd the **Abraham Lincoln Bookshop**’s “House Divided” series will feature an interview with author John Matteson, discussing his latest book on the battle of Fredericksburg, *A Place Worse Than Hell*. The event starts at 3 p.m. CST. Visit <https://alincolinbookshop.com/> for more.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

Due to government-ordered shutdowns, CWRT events are being cancelled or going online on an ad hoc basis. Contact the sponsoring organization for up to date details. Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

Mar. 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: John Horn on "The Petersburg Regiment"

Mar. 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Could the Confederacy Have Won the War and Achieved Its Independence?"

Mar. 6th, Two Old Goats in Cedar Lake: Doug Dammann on "The Kenosha Civil War Museum"

Mar. 12th, **Chicago CWRT**: Greg Biggs, The Nevin-Freeman Address: Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign

Mar. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Scott Mingus on "The Cumberland Valley Railroad in the Civil War"

Mar. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Eric Benjamin on "82nd Illinois Regiment"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings (all Zoom until further notice)

Apr. 9th: Ron Kirkwood on *Too Much for Human Endurance: The Spangler Farm Hospitals*

May 14th: Michael Hardy on *General Lee's Immortals*

June 11th: Wil Greene on *Petersburg*