

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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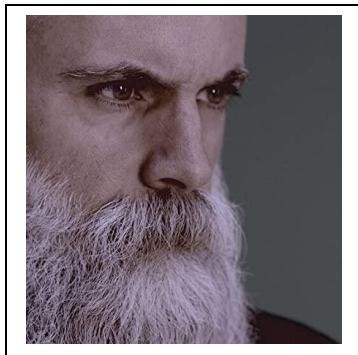
811th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, September 9th, 2022

Steve Cowie on

"When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home"

Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Sept. 9th, 2022, 07:30 PM CST

Zoom Option ID 845 3227 1496; No Passcode needed



The Battle of Antietam, fought in and around Sharpsburg, Maryland, on September 17, 1862, was the bloodiest day in American history. Despite the large number of books and articles on the subject, the battle's horrendous toll on area civilians is rarely discussed. Steven Cowie's new book, [When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called It Home](#) by rectifies this oversight.

By the time the battle ended about dusk that day, more than 23,000 men had been killed, wounded, or captured in just a dozen hours of combat--a grim statistic that tells only part of the story. The epicenter of that deadly day was the small community of Sharpsburg. Families lived, worked, and worshipped there. It was their home. And the horrific fighting turned their lives upside down.

[When Hell Came to Sharpsburg](#) investigates how the battle and opposing armies wreaked emotional, physical, and financial havoc on the people of Sharpsburg. For proper context, the author explores the savage struggle and its gory aftermath and

explains how soldiers stripped the community of resources and spread diseases. Cowie carefully and meticulously follows the fortunes of individual families like the Mummas, Roulettes, Millers, and many other--ordinary folk thrust into harrowing circumstance-- and their struggle to recover from their unexpected and often devastating losses.

Steve Cowie earned a degree from California State University, Long Beach. As part of the Los Angeles film industry, he penned spec screenplays and sold his award-winning short film Lola to the Sundance Channel. A lifelong student of the Civil War, Cowie dedicated fifteen years to exclusively researching the battle of Antietam. When Hell Came to Sharpsburg is his first book.

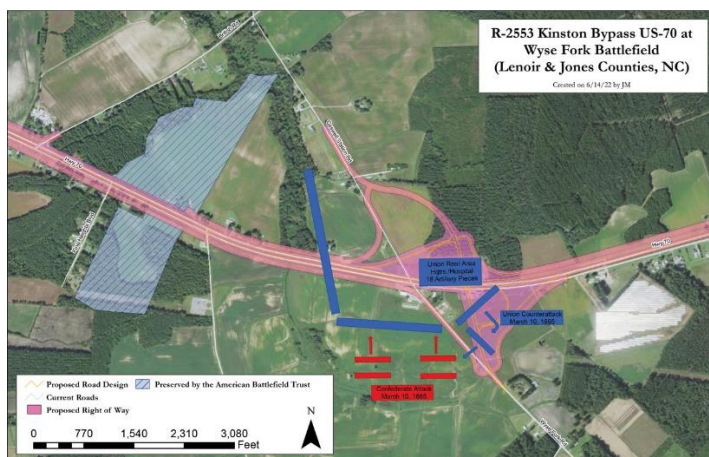
Battlefield Preservation

Dear _____,

When Union Gen. John M. Schofield ordered Maj. Gen. Jacob D. Cox to move his XXIII Corps to Goldsboro in February 1865, he was blocked by Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg just east of Kinston, North Carolina. Despite an initial Confederate success, Union reinforcements — arriving March 9 — were able to repulse Confederate troops, forcing Bragg to withdraw. The four-day long struggle is the second-largest battle ever fought in North Carolina and engaged over 20,500 troops.

Now, hallowed ground at the Wyse Fork Battlefield — just outside the city of Kinston — is facing a threat that would perpetually destroy the site. The proposed highway interchange would sit at the heart of the battlefield, causing significant and irreparable damage to the historic site, hindering interpretation efforts, and impeding future preservation attempts.

A map of the proposed highway interchange at Wyse Fork Battlefield. [Click to enlarge.](#)



[Join us in signing our letter of opposition against this horrendous threat](#) to one of our nation's most important Civil War conflicts.

Sincerely,

Jim Campi
Chief Policy and Communications Officer
American Battlefield Trust

June Meeting

By Mark Matranga

Lauren Szady spoke to The Civil War Round Table at its 810th Regular meeting on June 10, 2022, on “Politicians in Petticoats: The Women of the Abolition Movement.” Szady’s stated premise was that although not necessarily invited on the crusade, women contributed substantially to raising the nation’s consciousness to the horrors of slavery. Some women such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sojourner Truth were well known public figures, but others were not.

For example, Lydia Maria Child, already an established author, stated that William Lloyd Garrison “pulled me into reforms.” In 1833 she wrote the first antislavery work published in book form, “An Appeal in Favor of That Class of Americans Called Africans,” wherein she pointed out the moral and physical degradation of slavery. She favored eliminating all forms of racial discrimination and advocated interracial marriage, which did not endear her to her New England audience. Further, Child fell out of favor by describing discrimination and segregation in the North. Garrison had offered “no compromise with slavery” and Child declared herself ready to see the end of it. By 1835 both Child and her husband David were social outcasts: she was forced to resign a lucrative editorship and even had library privilege revoked. Later, she edited the *National Anti-Slavery Standard* (1841-43) but left due to factionalism within the movement.

Mary W. Stewart, a self-educated free black widowed after a mere three years of marriage, was one of the first women of any race to speak publicly on slavery. Her “Meditations” was first published in Garrisons’ newspaper “The Liberator” in 1831. “Religion and the Pure Principles of orality, the Sure Foundation of Which We Must Build” was published in 1832. Its success led to her giving four public lectures over the next two years. She demanded that her people, and especially women, pursue education and their rights, but more importantly to “Know the reason that you cannot

attain them.” Stewart exhorted black women to assume leadership roles, a stance highly defiant of prevailing convention.

Religious influences affected many in the abolition movement, such as the famous antebellum reformers the Grimke sisters. Born into a wealthy slaveholding family in South Carolina, the sisters developed an aversion to slavery through close contact with the institution. They converted to Quakerism after a visit to Philadelphia in 1819 and left Charleston within the next decade. Angelina’s letter to Garrison stating “this is a cause worth dying for” raised the ire of her fellow Quakers. And their writing created hostility as speaking out on slavery was not ‘women’s work.’ Angelica, defiant, proclaimed there were “only human rights” not men or women’s rights.

Prudence Crandall, a well-educated New Englander, opened a girl’s academy in Connecticut in 1831 and admitted the first African American girl, Sarah Harris, in 1832. This caused white parents to withdraw their children and merchants to refuse to supply the school. Notwithstanding this and other more violent opposition, the school thrived for a while as an exclusively black institution. However, a law passed in 1833 prohibiting schools teaching out-of-state African American students forced it to close. Crandall subsequently married and moved to LaSalle County, Illinois, where she opened another school.

Born to free parents in Delaware in 1823, Mary Ann Shadd Cary moved to Pennsylvania where her family was involved in the Underground Railroad. After the Fugitive Slave law was strengthened in 1850, they moved to Canada where she married Thomas Cary and opened a school for both races. She also became the first black female newspaper editor in North America when she published “The Provincial Freeman.” She returned to the US when her husband died and postwar enrolled in Howard University’s first Law School class.

Sarah Parker Redmond was born in 1826 to a prominent Massachusetts African American activist family. Inculcated at an early age into the movement, Redmond gave her first antislavery speech at age 16. In 1853 she took direct action that succeeded in integrating the opera in Boston. In 1856 she and her brother toured and lectured throughout the north for the Anti-Slavery Society; in time she became one of its most effective speakers. She travelled to London in 1859 for the World Anti-Slavery Conference but with the other women was refused seating. Redmond remained in England, lecturing throughout the British Isles in support of emancipation and for newly freed slaves. She never returned to America.

Szady shows that the abolition movement was not a strictly male affair: Women, white and black, some born into privilege but many not so well born, were prominent speakers, writers and actors in the cause. Their stories are rich and deserve to be told. All Americans need to know more about these highly effective, courageous and outspoken women, many of whom, we should be reminded, were not citizens until 1865.



Our in-person meetings are held at:

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago, IL 60631

Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE

Dinner \$40.00 Members and Non- Members

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30

Presentation only is \$10 per person.

BULLETIN BOARD

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on the following in-person/virtual programs:

“Band that Played for History” Friday, September 9, noon. Presenter: Ed Pierce

Of all the bands that participated in the Civil War, few equaled the experience of the little brass band from Brodhead, Wisconsin. From 1857 to 1865 the core group of musicians morphed into three ensembles: The Brodhead Brass Band, the 3rd Wisconsin Regimental Band, and the 1st Brigade Band. Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas, U.S. Grant, William T. Sherman, Oliver Otis Howard, Charles Hamilton, and Nathaniel P. Banks were among the impressive list of those who heard their music. Hear the remarkable, yet largely unknown, story as they stepped off the concert stage and onto the stage of history. Sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and Iron Brigade Association.

For more on programs at the museum, visit

<https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

The Civil War Congress meeting of CWRTs, scheduled for Sept. 16-18, has been cancelled. It will be rescheduled for a later date.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

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

Sept. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Steven Cowie on "When Hell Came to Sharpsburg: The Battle of Antietam and Its Impact on the Civilians Who Called it Home"

Sept. 9th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Laurie Schiller on "The 29th USCT at the Crater"

Sept. 13th, McHenry County CWRT: Rob Girardi on "General John E. Smith"
Sept. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Jerry Allen on "Murphy's Law and the Peter Principle:
The Holly Springs Raid"
Sept. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Baseball in the Civil War"
Sept. 22nd, South Suburban CWRT: Steve Magnusen on "Rufus Dawes"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Oct. 14th: Charlie Knight on "Robert E. Lee"
Nov. 11th: Mary Abroe, The Nevins-Freeman Address. "Battlefield Preservation"
Dec. 9th: Garry Adelman, "Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"
Jan. 13th, 2023: Rob Girardi, "POWs at Camp Douglas"
Feb. 10th: Bruce Allardice on "The Confederacy's 'Infernal Machines'"
Mar. 10th: Dwight Hughes on "Unlike Anything That Ever Floated"
Apr. 14th: Richard Holloway on "The Red River Campaign"
May 12th: Sean Michael Chick on "Grant's Left Hook: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign"
June 9th: Tom Cartwright, topic TBA

Zoom notice: For the remainder of the 2022-23 year, a recurring zoom meeting has been set up. The Zoom option for viewing the presentation will use the same ID each time, and no passcode will be required.

On Sept. 1st, at 3:30 CST, the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's** "House Divided" series of facebook interviews will feature David Kent talking about his new book, *Lincoln: The Fire of Genius: How Abraham Lincoln's Commitment to Science and Technology Helped Modernize America*. On Sept. 22nd, author Jan Jacobi is interviewed about *Lincoln in Springfield* and *Young Lincoln*. For more, visit <https://alincolinbookshop.com/a-house-divided-upcoming-shows/>

Battlefield/Preservation donations made by the Chicago CWRT this summer include: \$500 to the Adams County [Gettysburg, PA] Historical Society; and \$500 to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields

Special Meeting Giveaway

The CWRT will be giving away a **free Civil War book** to anyone attending the meetings in person, starting this September and through the remainder of the year. A bonus for attending. And a way of saying thank you to our members.

