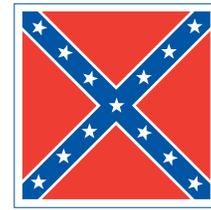


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 2005



639th REGULAR MEETING

BRUCE S. ALLARDICE
ON
THE ELECTION
OF 1864

★★★★★

Friday, March 11

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

Roast Pork Loin,
Catch of the Day or
Vegetable/Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, March 7**, by calling 630-460-1865. We now also have a **new online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, Mar. 9 will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$5 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$8 with a validated parking sticker.

BRUCE S. ALLARDICE

- on -

The Vote To Win the War: The Election of 1864

What was the best chance the South had to win the Civil War? It is generally agreed the South could not win the war in the classic military sense, with Southern armies seizing Washington D.C. and dictating a peace. Many historians have advanced the notion that all the South had to do was to hold on until the North tired of the war and quit. But even if the Northern population did get tired of the war, to the point where they preferred peace to disunion, how could that public sentiment have found expression in government action? It is a given that Abraham Lincoln had no intention of voluntarily ending the war until the "erring sisters", the seceding states, had been brought back into the Union—brought back by persuasion if possible, by force if necessary. If antiwar activists ever became a majority in the Northern states, Lincoln, or any president so determined, could and would have ignored that popular sentiment so long as he was in office. We thus can see that the presidential election of 1864 was the only chance where an antiwar Northern public (assuming such public existed) could replace the Lincoln administration with one devoted to making peace with the South. The 1864 election was the only chance, however slim, for the South to realize its independence.

On March 11th, Bruce Allardice will examine the 1864 election, whether there ever existed a realistic chance for



Bruce S. Allardice

an antiwar, "peace" candidate to be elected president, and whether that new president could have changed the outcome of the war. The presentation will focus on the parallels between the 1864 elections and other elections, the differences in voting between 1864 and the present day, the nomination of General George McClellan by the Democrats, and the political nature of the northern antiwar movement.

Bruce S. Allardice is the past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. His first book, *More Generals in Gray* (LSU Press 1995), was a selection of the History Book of the Month Club. He is the coauthor of *Texas Burial Sites of Civil War Notables* (Hill College Press, 2002), and has an essay in *Louisianans in the Civil War* (U. of Missouri Press, 2002). He has authored numerous articles published in magazines such as *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Times Illustrated*, and *North & South*. His latest book, a

biographical encyclopedia of Confederate army colonels titled *Jeff Davis' Colonels*, is scheduled to be published this October by Ironclad Publishing. Mr. Allardice, who teaches history, is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois Law School.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

Here's your chance to turn \$1.00 into \$7.50! The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) can save a 38-acre piece of School House Ridge at Harpers Ferry, if they can raise \$200,000 by April 30th. The matching funds arrangement with an anonymous donor would turn every dollar we donate today into \$7.50 and would rescue the historic ground just south of the 232-acre parcel on School House Ridge that CWPT members saved in 2002. This parcel has extensive "road frontage" on the state highway, making it very attractive to a developer who wants to build townhouses and a strip mall...and it will have a nearby sewage treatment plant.

The "good news" is that 60 days ago, Congress passed and President Bush signed into law a bill that provided direct land acquisition funds to the Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, reports Jim Lighthizer of the CWPT. Using this fund, officials at Harpers Ferry want to add the 38-acre parcel to the existing national park and will commit \$1.2 million of the \$1.5 million purchase price of this land. This leaves the project \$200,000 "in the hole" after the \$100,000 gift from the generous donor—hence the "\$1 for \$7.50" matching funds opportunity. Every \$24 donation we make—exactly the amount needed to save 200 square feet of this battlefield—becomes \$180; \$48 multiplies into \$360; and \$120 increases to \$900, etc. Without this acquisition, our view from the Union position on Bolivar Heights to T.J. Jackson's position on School House Ridge would include the usual "tattoo parlor, liquor store, and a tarot-card reading shop." Please join me and send *your* donation to: **CIVIL WAR PRESERVATION TRUST; P.O. Box 1477; Hagerstown, MD 21741-1477. Call 1-888-606-1400, or www.civilwar.org.**

"CWRT Resolutions for 2005" is the topic of an article by Matthew Borowick in *The Civil War News*. Resolutions that Round Tables can make in order to do *better* what we already do *well*: 1) **Create or update that Web site...**does the web site

have the speakers' list up-to-date? Is the meeting, tour, and activities information current? 2) **Finalize the speakers' list before the season starts.** This way, members—and prospective new members—can identify the topics and speakers of particular interest. 3) **Identify and support a preservation project.** Our Battlefield Preservation Committee does identify and support projects—examples of this are in the *Newsletter* in your hand—but you, individually, should also be involved. 4) **Work with local schools.** Many of our CWRT members *do* work with schools at all levels and with local service organizations such as Kiwanis, Rotary, or Lions. Ruth and I recently gave a presentation to two Hinsdale High School History Clubs—I didn't even know they had "History Clubs"—and over 100 students crowded in for an *after-school* event! Again, you, individually, can also be involved. 5) **Show your thanks.** Our CWRT functions totally with volunteers who donate their time and expertise to make the CWRT's meetings, tours, events, and programs enjoyable. A simple "thank you" instead of a criticism would go a long way toward showing our appreciation—and it would encourage *others* to volunteer.

"**Preservationists face quandary at Fleetwood Hill, Brandy Station,**" as reported in *The Civil War News*. A developer is planning to build eight homes on the 19-acre tract on Fleetwood Hill, just 400 yards across open cropland from the site of Stuart's headquarters. This area was the focus of the battle's climax on June 9, 1863. The Brandy Station Foundation (BSF) is willing to purchase the land at a profit for the owner, but the asking price is far beyond the appraised value. A Culpeper bank provided an appraisal of \$223,000 on the property, valued as farmland—the original purchase price was \$450,000. This prevents securing a loan sufficient to meet the seller's asking price and puts beyond the reach of the CWPT any Federal grants that require a dollar-for-dollar match. These grants are available only up to the appraised

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Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org.

value of the property in question. The CWPT is working with BSF in an effort to resolve the question...another reason for our continued support of the CWPT.

"**A new trail to provide access to the final phase at Antietam,**" reports the *News*. A recently acquired 145-acre property at Antietam National Battlefield will have a mile-long trail that will give visitors their first-ever access to the final phase of America's bloodiest day of battle. The trail will follow the advance of the Union troops and will comprise a mowed swath, for the most part. The Shade Farm, as the site is now known, has been neglected for many years and was cleared of brush and non-native plants by groups of volunteers from Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF) and Boy Scouts. The Park is also planning for major park road repairs, funded by \$3.7 million in anticipated federal funding in 2007. Except for patching, the roads haven't been touched in 30 years.

Please note the "Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award" flyer included with this Newsletter. It is indeed, *your* invitation to *individually* honor Ed by contributing to the funding of this CWRT award. The Award gives \$1000 to whatever project or area that needs a helping hand, at Ed's discretion. All individual contributors, of any amount, will be listed in the Tour Program at Vicksburg and in the CWRT *Newsletter*. Thank you for your support. ■

FEBRUARY MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On February 11th Robert J. Miller, our Round Table's Vice President, gave an inspiring, excellent presentation on "Both Prayed to the Same God—Religion, Faith and the Civil War" before 84 members and guests at the 638th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A priest at Holy Angels Church in inner-city Chicago, Miller is an activist in the community. As the author of five books on religion as well as a Civil war student, Bob represents a unique combination.

"Religion has been the least written area of study in the Civil War," began Miller. He proceeded to give an overview of religion in the entire Civil war era, emphasizing the importance of religion to the soldiers. The U. S. was a very devout country in the 19th Century. One in every seven soldiers went to church during the conflict, with two-thirds of the soldiers being known members of a church. Miller pointed out that while all areas of the U.S. were predominantly Protestant and evangelical, "Religion during the Civil War divided and supported the country at the same time."

Twenty-five years before slavery as a political issue cause a split in the country with a devastating Civil War, church denomination split over slavery. Presbyterians divided in 1837 over abolition, splitting into northern and southern denominations. Most Americans belonged to either the Baptist or Methodist churches, and in the 1840s they also split into northern and southern divisions over abolition. These religious schisms sent tsunami-like shock waves over the country and gained the attention of politicians. The only major denomination that did not separate were the Roman Catholics. According to Miller, the Roman Catholic Church believed in a hierarchical model based on the Pope's authority, as opposed to the more congregation-based hierarchy of the major Protestant denominations. The Catholic church did not approve of slavery, but was not a strong proponent of abolition or a severe critic of slavery.

The North and South differed greatly in their social and theological perspectives. The North had Puritan influences with structured villages in tight-knit communities. By contrast, in the

South individuals more normally lived in isolated, independent, scattered communities. In 1860, 94% of the southern population was Protestant and evangelical. Sin in the South dealt with individual guilt, such as Sabbath-breaking, gambling, drinking, swearing, and dueling, whereas in the North the focus was more toward community sins and community/government actions.

Religion played a major factor for both sides in justifying the war. During the war faith maintained morale, especially in the Confederacy. Religion became a more powerful force the longer the war ensued. The single greatest religious event was the "great revival", beginning in 1863. One historian suggest that the Civil War can best be viewed as one long revival interrupted by a series of battles. In one noted incident, Confederate General Leonidas Polk, an Episcopal Bishop, baptized Generals Joe Johnston and John Bell Hood during the Atlanta Campaign. When Bishop Polk was killed at Pine Mountain, he had two Bibles in his pockets—one for Johnston, another for Hood. Miller continued, "Five to ten percent of Civil War Soldiers were converted during the revival. Religion was an especially potent force in the 1864 Confederacy, allowing the Confederacy to survive until the Spring of 1865."

As soon as the war began, the Union side saw a need for military chaplains immediately, while the Confederate government made no formal arrangements for military chaplains. Federal chaplains numbered 2,400 during the war, but only 600 were on duty at any one time. Eleven Union military chaplains died during the conflict. Fourteen percent of Southern clergymen became Confederate chaplains. In addition to preaching, chaplains performed a variety of other duties, such as teaching, carrying letters to home, and ministering to the sick. Several grabbed a rifle and fought on the battlefields.

"Many Civil war students think that the Civil war ended in 1865. However, I maintain that the conflict lasted through ten years of temporary civil rights for Blacks (1865-1875) and 100 years of Jim Crow laws, lynching, and segregation of races," opined Miller. According to Miller, Southern clergy-

men perpetuated the "Lost Cause" mythology with their emphasis on southern spiritual superiority. The religious sermons and writings suggested that the Confederate soldiers were braver in battle, purer in motive, and more deeply religious than their Union counterparts. The war also fostered the growth of African-American churches, as the newly-freed slaves followed a path of religious self-determination. Church attendance among Blacks increased by 1700% in the 40 years following the war. The ex-slaves identified with the Israelites of the Bible who fled slavery from Egypt to the Promised Land. Ex-slave Harriet Tubman was described as "the Moses of her people" after leading slaves to freedom. Specific African-American colleges such as Fisk, Hampton and Howard originated from the Black religious experience.

Abraham Lincoln's speeches contain numerous religious references (far more than in today's political speeches), the language, the references, being the ones Americans could most easily comprehend. The presentation ended with the matchless words of Lincoln's second inaugural address of March 4, 1865: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds.. to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace."

BEARSS RECEIVES AWARD

Over two dozen CWRT members ventured down to Lincoln, Illinois February 13th to see Ed Bearss receive an honorary PH.D. in History from Lincoln College. Decked out academic gown, Ed gave a short speech thanking Lincoln College for the award, after which he and three other distinguished historians participated in a panel discussion on the Civil War. A reception was held afterwards. Representatives of half a dozen different round tables, including Northern Illinois, Salt Creek, Champaign, Decatur and South Suburban, turned out to honor the man who has given so much to the round table movement, and to all of us personally, over the last 50+ years.

GRAPESHOT



The Kankakee Valley CWRT is holding its annual **symposium** Saturday, April 2nd, at the Quality Inn, Bradley, Illinois. The seminar includes talks by John M. Coski, David Hinze, CWRT past president Rob Girardi (on "The Real War Will Never Get in the Books"), and Max & Donna Daniels (Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln). Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and the talks start at 9. For more information, phone Art Schumacher at 815 939-1041 or email mhess@yahoo.com.

Civil War Event in Marengo. For a night of Civil War period music and good fun, attend the late winter ball Saturday March 12 at 7:00 p.m.. The address is 111 West First Street, Belvedere, Illinois. Contact Jerry Kowalski at 630 833-3235 or pap-tom@msn.com for more information.

Concept plans for a new Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Wisconsin, will be unveiled at a presentation Saturday, April 2, at 1 p.m. at the Kenosha Public Museum, 5500 First Ave., Kenosha. The new museum, scheduled to open in 2007, will highlight the roles played by Midwestern states in the war. Contact Lance Herdegen at herdegen@xmail.cc.edu for directions and more information.

On April 16th our friends at the **Chicago Historical Society** and the **Newberry Library** are sponsoring a bus tour of Chicago-area sites involved with the Underground Railroad. Glennette Tilley Turner, author of *The Underground Railroad in Illinois*, will be the guide. Contact Jessica Thomas at 312 255-3691, thomas@newberry.org for more information.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@aol.com or (847) 375-8305.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by Ralph G. Newman and other members. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum raise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago has approved changes to the bylaws that govern our round table. The changes are intended to update and modernize the bylaws and effect no substantive change in the way the round table operates. At the March meeting copies of the new bylaws will be passed out. At the April meeting we will all vote on whether to approve the new bylaws.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

To all Past Presidents of the **Civil War Round Table of Chicago**, an invitation is extended to attend the annual meeting of the **Nominating Committee**. The purpose is to set the slate of officers and committee chairs for the fiscal year 2005-2006. The meeting is **Saturday, March 12, 2005, 9:00 a.m.**, at **Brooks Davis' home** (new address): **1445 N. State Parkway, Apt. #1705; Chicago, IL 60610-1565...call 312-654-0614**. Public parking is available nearby at **State and Banks Streets** and across from the Chicago Historical Society. Public transportation is readily available.

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*.

March 11: Bruce Allardice, "The Vote To Win the War: The Election of 1864"

April 8: Kent Gramm, "A More Perfect Tribute: Abraham Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address"

April 28-May 1: Annual battlefield tour—Vicksburg

May 13: Dan Nettesheim, "Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General"

June 10: Nat Hughes, "Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A."

NEW MEMBERS

Dr. James M. Brophy
931 Glen Flora
Waukegan, Illinois 60085

Corey & Kathleen Lange
1458 E. Olive St.
Palatine, Illinois 60074

Neil Marron
909 Spindletree Ave.
Naperville, Illinois 60565

Constance Rial
175 E. Delaware Pl. #6810
Chicago, Illinois 60611