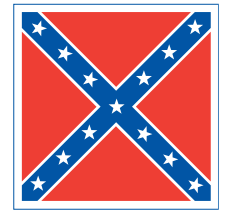


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 2005



641st REGULAR MEETING

DAN NETTESHEIM

ON

WINFIELD SCOTT HANCOCK

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, May 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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:

Chicken Vesuvio.

Catch of the Day or

Vegetable/Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, May 9**, 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, May 11 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.

DANIEL D. NETTESHEIM

- on -

“Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Dan Nettlesheim

“Win Hancock... He’s the best they’ve got, and that’s a fact.” In the novel “The Killer Angels” (later made into the movie “Gettysburg”) Pulitzer Prize-winning author Michael Shaara has Confederate General Louis Armistead praise his old friend Winfield Scott Hancock, the Union general whose troops will soon kill Armistead.

A U.S. Army captain prior to the Civil War, Hancock’s robust leadership won him promotion from command of a brigade to command of the Army of the Potomac’s Second Corps. Both Meade and Grant considered him that army’s best corps commander. Among other notable accomplishments, General Hancock selected the battlefield at Gettysburg, then led the Union troops in the most decisive action of that battle, the repulse of Pickett’s Charge. By joint resolution the U.S. House and Senate thanked Hancock for “his gallant and conspicuous share in that great and decisive victory”. During the postwar Reconstruction, Hancock’s intelligent and sensitive handling of occupation duties endeared him to his former Confederate foes. He ran for

President in 1880 as the nominee of the Democrats, and with the backing of those ex-Confederates nearly won the election.

On May 13th Daniel D. Nettlesheim will speak on “Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General”. Dan plans to examine Hancock’s generalship and identify some of its salient characteristics. He will use Hancock’s life to examine how the role of a successful subordinate general may differ from that of a commanding general.

Dan Nettlesheim earned a BS in Engineering from West Point; an MA (History) and MS (Industrial Engineering) at the University of Michigan; an MBA at Long Island University; and a Master of Military History, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth. He is a retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Professor of History, West Point; and Senior Vice President of Operations, Schwaab Inc, Milwaukee. Dan has designed and taught various Civil War and military history courses at West Point, and has taught at the Civil War Institute of Carroll College.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

CWPT's Most Endangered Battlefields Annual Report, as covered by the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) in *Hallowed Ground*, *The Civil War News*, and *The Civil War Courier*. The list for this year's "History Under Siege" as follows:

1) **Bermuda Hundred, Virginia.** This area was meant to be the beginning of an effort to capture the Confederate capital at Richmond, but it bogged down into a series of bloody and inconclusive battles that led into on-going trench warfare. After much of the siege lines and battlefields have already succumbed to urban sprawl, Chesterfield County has created a chain of small parks to protect isolated parts of the battlefield. Commercial development along Route 10 has had an adverse effect on these efforts.

2) **Franklin, Tennessee.** This battle nearly destroyed the Confederate army of John B. Hood, and set up its final destruction at Nashville soon after. After a charge that was equal to (or perhaps greater than) Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, Rebel losses were 6000 soldiers and six generals killed or mortally wounded. Government officials, the CWPT, and local preservation activists are working together to purchase the site of this action. They need to raise the remaining \$2.5 million to acquire the property.

3) **Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.** This was a key objective in Sherman's march from Chattanooga to Atlanta. Sherman's attack on Joe Johnston's entrenched lines resulted in a bloody repulse that taught Sherman a valuable lesson. Today, the picturesque area is surrounded by urban sprawl and the 1200 homes that have already been built around the park's boundary. More than 160,000 cars travel through the park each day! Repeated local requests to widen the park's road network are *not* the answer.

4) **Knoxville, Tennessee.** Longstreet's bid to end the Union occupation of Knoxville and eastern Tennessee resulted in one of the most brutal battles of the Civil War. Today, only a handful of the city's protective earthworks remain, and these are very vulnerable to development. The Knoxville CWRT is working diligently to save Fort Higley, scene of the battle on November 25, 1863.

5) **Manassas, Virginia.** "The 1st Battle of Manassas was a battle of glory-

seeking amateurs experiencing war for the first time. The 2nd Battle of Manassas was a far larger and costlier affair, fought by men who had become hardened to the horrors of 19th century warfare," per the CWPT. The Manassas site has survived an "assault" by Disney developers, but commuter traffic *within the park* is now a major threat. Some alternative to widening the roads *through the battlefield* must be found.

6) **Mansfield, Louisiana.** Confederate victory at Mansfield resulted in a Union retreat that left the Red River Valley in Confederate hands for the remainder of the war. Nearly 25% of the troops who fought at Mansfield became casualties. The CWPT has acquired, in part, 194 acres of the 237 currently preserved, but this is only a small portion of the area that should be protected from development. A giant lignite (coal) mining operation has already destroyed large parts of the battlefield, and the owners have been unwilling to negotiate with preservationists.

7) **Morris Island, South Carolina.** Morris Island is near Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, and was the site of the charge of the 54th Massachusetts, which was immortalized by the film "Glory." A developer applied to build 20 houses on the island...this is 10-times the density allowed by current zoning, and it will impact the viewshed of Ft. Sumter, the remains of Ft. Wagner, Ft. Gregg, and the remains of the "Swamp Angel" battery.

8) **Raymond, Mississippi.** Raymond was the key battle of Grant's Vicksburg Campaign...and it was one of the sites we visited on our 2005 CWRT tour to Vicksburg. Today, only 65 acres of the 4,024-acre site are protected...40 of those acres preserved by the CWPT. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission classified Raymond as a Priority I, Class B battlefield. Development along Highway 18, the wartime Utica Road, is the principal threat.

9) **Spotsylvania County, Virginia.** Midway between Washington and Richmond, Spotsylvania County was the area of four of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The county is one of the fastest developing counties in the nation, and the battlefields are in constant threat of the developers' bulldozers. A political "window of opportunity" has presented itself...but that "window" may not be open for long.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
9670 N. Dee #205
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.thecwrt.org

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.

10) **Wilson's Creek, Missouri.** About 18,000 men in blue and gray engaged in this first battle of the Civil War fought west of the Mississippi River. Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in combat in the Civil War, was among the 2300 casualties. Today, this jewel of the National Battlefield Parks is threatened by a proposed 1,500-house development immediately adjacent to the battlefield. The 2,300-acre development would have a devastating impact.

The "At Risk" sites as listed by the CWPT: 1) Belmont, Missouri; 2) Brandy Station, Virginia; 3) Buckland, Virginia; 4) Cedar Creek, Virginia; 5) Champion Hill, Mississippi; 6) Circle Forts, Washington, D.C.; 7) Cold Harbor, Virginia; 8) Port Republic, Virginia; 9) Glorieta, New Mexico; 10) Hell Hole Sites, Georgia; 11) New Bern, North Carolina; 12) Reed's Bridge, Arkansas; 13) South Mountain, Maryland; 14) Spring Hill, Tennessee; 15) Williamsburg, Virginia.

The CWPT is also working with the state of Tennessee and the Civil War Battlefield Protection Program to develop matching funds to save the Parker's Crossroads, Tennessee, battlefield.

The CWPT's 2004 Year-end Battlefield Report: "For 2004, we completed easements and fee simple transactions for 12 projects in 7 states valued at over \$10 million. Together, our hard work culminated in *more than 3,000 acres saved*, with every one of our members' donated dollars-for-land leveraging, on average, about *seven additional dollars* from other sources." This is a remarkable report and the CWRT should—and shall—continue to support the CWPT as we have in the past. ■

APRIL MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On April 8th Kent Gramm gave an interesting speech titled “A More Perfect Tribute: Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address” before 87 members and guests at the 640th regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Gramm, a former professor at several institutions of higher learning, is the Program Director for the Seminary Ridge Historical Preservation Foundation in Gettysburg. He has written four books dealing with subjects such as Gettysburg and Abraham Lincoln. His presentation sought to separate fact from fiction regarding the writing of the Gettysburg Address, and to interpret its meaning and significance.

Perhaps President Lincoln’s most important speech was given at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, to show respect to the fallen soldiers at the battle of Gettysburg. Three distinct sections of the Gettysburg Address alluded to the past, the present, and the future of the United States. The first sentence had three references to birth: the birth of the country. The phrase “Four score and seven years ago” referred to 1776—the year the Declaration of Independence was written. In this tightly organized speech, the Declaration of Independence represented Lincoln’s idea of what the country stood for—its experiment in Democracy being the last best hope of earth. In the last part of the Address Lincoln repeated his birth analogy, referring to “a new birth of freedom” and the end of slavery in the near future.

Gramm insisted that the Gettysburg Address was “a piece of writing of careful thought and planning”, written by America’s finest presidential speechwriter. Many fabrications and distortions regarding the writing of the speech have arisen due to a 1906 book, “A Perfect Tribute”, by Mary Raymond Andrews. Among the falsehoods was the story that Lincoln wrote the Address on the

back of an envelope on the train from Washington to Gettysburg. Gramm opined, “She (Andrews) sentimentalized Lincoln: she turned his compassion into extreme sentimentality”. According to Andrews, Lincoln, totally unprepared for the event, was given a pencil to write it by Edward Everett, and that Harriet Beecher Stowe was on the train. In reality, Gramm claimed that Lincoln was well-prepared for “a few appropriate remarks” at Gettysburg, Everett was in Pittsburgh, and Stowe was in Boston during the train ride.

When Lincoln followed Everett’s speech with his two-minute, 272-word address, he held the speech in his left hand, relaxed and confident. After all, Lincoln was the most effective speaker of the time. In the Andrews version, Lincoln spoke in a squeaky, falsetto voice, and no sound of approval or recognition came from the audience. She proclaimed the speech a failure. She stated that Lincoln told Everett afterwards, “We’ll not talk about my speech, Mr. Everett”. Gramm contended that her version was incorrect in almost all the factual details (for example, reporters stated that applause interrupted the speech five times, with great cheers and applause at its conclusion), but Gramm admitted that her version captured the imagination of many Americans.

Gramm followed his criticism of the popular Andrews book by posing basic queries: Could present-day historians do any better? Could historians give a better tribute to Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address than Mrs. Andrews? Gramm emphasized that the Address attempted to reinvent America, or at least return America to the principles of fairness and equality stressed in the Declaration of Independence. To Lincoln, what mattered is what we Americans do in the future; we, the living, should be dedicated to a new purpose of government, including “a new birth of free-

dom”. Martin Luther King’s “I have a Dream” speech, where King proclaimed people should be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character, is in that sense the philosophical continuation of the “freedom” Lincoln wished for.

In viewing the Civil War, Lincoln (according to Gramm) did not give in to the notion that his enemies (the Confederates) were more evil than he was. In the Gettysburg Address Lincoln explained his view of who and what we were as Americans. Gramm felt that Lincoln would be dismayed today by what Gramm sees as an emphasis on American strength and wealth, when freedom and equality should be the basis of American culture. Gramm concluded, “Lincoln believed in the proposition that right makes might. Will we escape or maintain our experiment in democracy? The world and posterity are watching. As Lincoln explained, ‘We cannot escape history.’”



On April 24th the local Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp 1507, along with the Military Order of the Stars and Bars and other groups, held their annual Confederate Memorial Day ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago, honoring the 4,000 Confederate veterans, prisoners at Camp Douglas prison, who are buried there.



On May 28th the Sons of Union Veterans, Illinois Camp 2, and the city of Aurora will sponsor a gravestone rededication and Memorial Day observance at Root Street Cemetery, 501 College Avenue in Aurora. The event starts at 2:00 p.m., and is open to the public. For details, contact the City of Aurora at (630) 844-3640 or SUVer William Kooser at (630) 668-4882, or email wkooser@comcast.net.

GRAPESHOT



Past CWRT President Dick McAdoo gave a presentation on “Civil War Projectiles and Fuzes...The Inside Story” at the April 11th meeting of the CWRT of Raleigh, NC. Dick currently resides in Merritt, NC.

CWRT President Jerry Kowalski gave a presentation on General Thomas and the Atlanta Campaign to the South Suburban CWRT. He also gave a presentation to 4th, 5th and 6th graders at the Montessori School of Long Grove. Mrs. Frances Kellogg Thomas (CWRT member JoEllen Kowalski) and the General will be speaking to 1200 students at Midway Village in Rockford the week after returning from the Vicksburg Tour.

CWRT Past President Bruce Allardice will be speaking May 19th before the Macoupin Co. CWRT. The topic will be “The Ten Worst Civil War Generals”.

CWRT member Pat Brennan will be speaking on “Jeb Stuart” at Eisenhower High School in Blue Island this May 10th at 7:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Blue Island Park District. Pat also has an article on the battle of Nashville in the latest *North & South* magazine.

CWRT member John Wilharm wants his Round Table friends to know that Monique and he have had two kids recently—a girl, Alexandra, born in June '03, and a boy, Jack, born in October '04.

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.

LINCOLN MUSEUM OPENS!

April 19th saw the long-awaited grand opening of the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Illinois. President Bush delivered the keynote address to the thousands in the crowd, calling for “freedom's advance” throughout the world in continuation of Lincoln's legacy. Institute director Richard Norton Smith, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, and Illinois State Historian (and CWRT member) Tom Schwartz were among the many dignitaries in attendance. Also in attendance were dozens of Abraham Lincoln “living history” impersonators, complete with beards and stovepipe hats.

The new museum, according to Smith, mixes rare relics (including a copy of the Gettysburg Address in Lincoln's handwriting) and first-rate scholarship with high-tech exhibits, including tableaux, holograms and a mock television control room broadcasting mock campaign commercials for the candidates for president in 1860. Smith asserts, “It is accessible to the modern audience. That's what sets this museum apart from a more traditional approach.”

The new museum is at 212 N. Sixth St. in downtown Springfield. Hours are M, T, Th-Su 9-5, W 9-8:30. Admission is \$7.50 for ages 16-61, free for children under five and discounts for children 5-15 and seniors. Across the street, at 112 N. Sixth, is the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, with free admission and similar hours (except for Sunday). Call (217) 558-8844 for more information.

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.*

April 28-May 1: Annual battlefield tour—Vicksburg

May 13: Dan Nettlesheim, “Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General”

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

Sept. 9: **Nevins-Freeman Award**
Address: Richard McMurry, subject TBA

Oct. 14: Celebration of 65th Anniversary of Chicago CWRT: Ed Bearss, “The Most Forgotten, Misunderstood Least Appreciated Civil War Battles and Soldiers”

Nov. 11: (Veteran's Day): Edward Bonekemper III, “A Victor Not a Butcher—U.S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius”

Dec. 9: Stephen Fratt, “Civil War Tactics and Technology”

NEW MEMBERS

Terry Trotti
512 Ventura Drive
San Antonio, TX 78232

Allen P. Waishwell
5890 S. Bradley Court
Hanover Park, IL 60133

CASTING CALL FOR MOVIE

McDougal Films is currently seeking young adults—especially black and white boys ages 13-17—for lead and supporting roles in a family oriented Civil War feature film, “Dog Jack,” that will be shooting in the Chicago area this summer. You may contact Mark F. Armstrong, the director, directly for additional details at dogjackhome@hotmail.com, the Glencoe production office (847) 835-5333 or home (773) 568-6574.