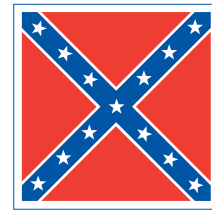


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 2006



654th REGULAR MEETING

GORDON DAMMANN

ON

A MUSEUM, A BATTLEFIELD AND A HERO

★★★★★

Friday, October 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 Venetian.

Catch of the Day.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by MONDAY, Oct. 9, by calling 630-460-1865. We now also have our online dinner reservation system at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, Oct. 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.

Nevins-Freeman

Address

GORDON DAMMANN

- on -

“A Museum, a Battlefield and a Hero”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Recent Civil War scholarship, most notably in the works of Prof. Steve Newton (*Lost for the Cause*), have highlighted the vital importance of medical services in the functioning of the armies. Prompt and efficient medical attention to battlefield wounds and camp illnesses sustained the morale of the soldier risking his life for his country, and saved many a hero for further service and an honored old age.

Gordon Dammann has been in the forefront of the efforts to tell the story of Civil War medicine. Starting in the 1970s, Gordon and his wife Karen acquired a large collection of medical artifacts, and in 1988 Gordon formed the idea of a museum of Civil War medicine, to hold these and other artifacts and to continue telling the story. The Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest single day of fighting in the war, provided a “baptism by fire” for the medical corps of both armies. The city of Frederick, near Antietam and the home to many Civil War hospitals, offered a site for the new museum, which began its existence in 1992.



Gordon Dammann

Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac from 1862 to 1864, has been called “the Father of American Battlefield Medicine”. He transformed the medical department from a small, red-tape-ridden bureaucracy into a workable, functioning entity that pioneered many advances in the treatment of wounded soldiers. On October 13th Dr. Dammann will share his enthusiasm for Dr. Letterman, Antietam, and the National Museum of Civil War medicine.

A longtime member of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, Gordon Dammann graduated from Loyola University in 1969 with a degree in dentistry. After serving two years in the U.S. army, he returned to Lena, Illinois, where he practices dentistry. Dr. Dammann is on the editorial board of *North & South* magazine, has edited the memoirs of Jonathan Letterman, and wrote three volumes of the *Pictorial Encyclopedia of Civil War Medical Instruments and Equipment*. He has spoken at numerous round tables, including three times at Chicago. He is Chairman and Founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.



Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

It seems fitting to acknowledge here the recent passing of two fine men and good friends, Marvin Sanderman and Steve Stewart. While distinct in their personalities, Marv (a past president and inveterate battlefield tour leader) and Steve (a tireless member of the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee) shared a passion for studying and remembering the Civil War that moved them to action. They loved the battlefields, and each worked in his own unique way to honor the men who fought on those fields. These were two decent and dedicated individuals with whom we laughed and walked hallowed ground, and we are better for having known them.

CWRT Receives Thanks for Donations: Over the summer we received notes of gratitude for contributions from our Battlefield Preservation Fund to several preservation organizations. From James Cass, president of the Camp Wildcat Preservation Foundation, came the following sentiments on his organization's being named a co-recipient of the 5th Annual Bearss Preservation Award: "On behalf of the entire membership of the...Foundation, I herewith extend our sincere appreciation for the \$1,500 donation made to our group from the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. It is a tremendous honor for us to have been designated by our good friend Ed Bearss as a recipient of this money. We will never forget either this honor or this gift. Both your group and Mr. Bearss have been extremely kind and generous to our Foundation...."

We will certainly put the money to good use. Although at this time I cannot tell you...what the funds will be used for, they will most likely be used to help finance another trail or for additional interpretive signs for our Battlefield. One thing you can be assured of is that the money will be

expended in an efficient manner for needed improvements at our site."

Julie Krick, president of the Richmond Battlefields Association (co-recipient of the 2006 Bearss Award), addressed her organization's thanks to members of the Civil War Round Table: "Your donation in the amount of \$1500.00 has arrived safely. Your probably already know that the Richmond Battlefields Association is involved in its biggest project to date. We are committed to paying for a significant piece of the final purchase price for a 40-acre parcel at the Frayser's Farm/Glendale battlefield.

...Virtually every penny of this donation will be applied directly toward the purchase of that historic ground. Our all-volunteer, non-profit organization exists for precisely this purpose: to take the individual wishes of Civil War battlefield enthusiasts around the country and translate them into collective action around Richmond. Thanks for helping to make that happen." [And from Robert E.L. "Bobby" Krick, came the following, handwritten addendum to Julie's note: "Thanks for helping with this. The money will go directly to the battlefield deal at Frayser's Farm."]

Joe Smyth III, president of Save the Franklin Battlefield, thanked us for a donation (suggested by CWRT member Gale Pewitt) to his organization: "On behalf of the Board of Directors and volunteers at Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc., I want to thank you for your donation of \$250.00....Your support of our land purchase and other programs is crucial to our continued success...."

Your gift will be combined with those of others who also are contributing to the purchase and care of battlefield land here in Franklin. We are currently participating in a joint effort with other historical groups known as Franklin's Charge. Combined with

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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.

the participation of Franklin City government and national preservation organizations, Franklin's Charge has purchased the 112-acre Franklin Country Club. This important part of the Franklin Battlefield lies just north of Carnton Plantation, and just east of Collins Farm that STFB purchased four years ago."

Finally the Civil War Round Table received a note of gratitude from Lawrence Selzer, president of the Conservation Fund, for our contribution (suggested by CWRT member William Sullivan) to his group's efforts: "On behalf of the Conservation Fund, I want to thank the Civil War Round Table of Chicago for their generous gift...in support of our Civil War Battlefield Campaign.

The Conservation Fund's Civil War Battlefield Campaign works in partnerships to protect our nation's hallowed grounds, to provide comprehensive and concise information on the 384 principal Civil War battlefields, designated by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and to honor those that fought and died in the war. The Fund, together with its partners, is leading the way to forge tangible solutions that will ensure America's valuable land legacy is preserved for future generations."

SEPTEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On September 8th Michael Kauffman gave a stimulating address entitled “American Brutus” to 91 members and guests at the 653rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Kauffman, a resident of Maryland, was formerly employed by CNN News, but currently holds a position with an Arab media service. A renowned expert on the Lincoln Assassination, he has written several books, including the recent *American Brutus: John Wilkes Booth and the Lincoln Conspiracy*. Kauffman’s research has created a serious issue with a surprising resolution concerning Booth’s reputation.

“Lincoln’s assassination has been explained in so many different ways,” began Kauffman, “but essentially history is people and what people do, so I attempted to get inside Booth’s head.” John Wilkes Booth was born into a famous acting family, and “Wilkes” (as he was generally known) was perhaps the star of the American stage in the early 1860s. Presaging modern rock concerts, fans rioted to see him on stage. Booth has often been described as a half-crazed actor, vain and arrogant. However, according to public accounts, he was personable, charming, sensitive, caring—and very popular. How do these widely different images of Booth co-exist? Kauffman’s research presented a major quandary: how would he present Booth in his book?

Booth was not a typical assassin. As a very popular actor, his yearly salary exceeded \$20,000—a fortune in the 1860s. Yet he was willing to sacrifice fame and fortune for the Confederate cause. In line with many Democrats, north as well as south, Booth thought Lincoln suspended civil liberties and proposed emancipation of slaves. In Booth’s eyes that made Lincoln a tyrant to be stopped.

In his research Kauffman discovered that the legal system ironically aided in Lincoln’s assassination. Kauffman explained, “Booth could implicate others in the plot. In the 1860s, the defendant had no right to speak as a suspect, and no right to offer evidence from your own witness!” If Booth decided to approach someone to join in his plot, Booth could implicate that someone. The same punishment that Booth would face could also apply to his fellow conspirators (or just acquaintances) even if they were unwittingly involved. Kauffman stated that Booth would inform anyone who knew of the kidnapping or assassination plots, “You are not going to betray me because I can implicate you!”

In 1864 the Confederate cause looked desperate. A plot to kidnap Lincoln was briefly considered as part of Jubal Early’s 1864 raid on Washington D.C. Booth, now a Confederate agent, was seen talking to John Surratt, a long-time Confederate agent who knew about the established Confederate courier route through southern Maryland. The loquacious Surratt talked too much about the plot with Louis Weichmann, a boarder at the Surratt House, who later became a star witness in the conspiracy trial. Weichmann’s loyalty was itself suspect, and Weichmann testified knowing that he could also be indicted as a co-conspirator.

Booth manipulated many in his deceitful web of conspiracy. Kauffman proclaimed, “Booth’s intentions pushed away [the image of] Booth as a nice guy, because the real Booth was sacrificing good and decent people to get his country to go in his direction!” That direction was a Confederate victory. According to Kauffman, Booth’s attitude was “I don’t care who it hurts!”

In the end Kauffman worked out a resolution of Booth’s duality of character and reputation. John Wilkes Booth was a consummate actor, one who was beloved by his public audience. He was not half-crazed but extremely cagey, cunning and cold-hearted. Kauffman concluded, “Booth definitely was an actor, acting and staging his way through a real-life drama—similar to a Shakespearean tragedy.”

CWRT OFFICERS LIST FOR 2006-2007

President: Nancy Bates
Senior VP: Roger Rudich
First VP: Jerry Allen
Second VP: Vacant
Treasurer: Rae Radovich
Asst. Treasurer: Tom Trescott
Secretary: Donna Tuohy
Asst. Secretary: Mary Beth Foley
Trustees for term ending 2007: Sonya Reschly, David Zucker, Bob Stoller, Tom Postema
Trustees for term ending 2008: JoEllen Kowalski, John Van Dellen, Bob Carlson, Brian Seiter
Non-elected officers:
 Dinner Registrar: Mary Beth Foley, Bill Sullivan
 Registrar: Sonya Reschly
 Inspector General: David Zucker, Tom Trescott
 Photographer: Hal Ardell
 Webmaster: Bill Sullivan
 Electronic and Newsletter Editor: Bruce Allardice
 Contributing Editors: Mary Munsell Abroe, David Zucker, Larry Gibbs

A list of committee chairs will appear in next month’s newsletter.

GRAPESHOT



On Saturday, November 4, the **Pritzker Military Library** will feature an in-house and a virtual book signing by authors Tom Wheeler (Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails: the Untold Story of How Abraham Lincoln Used the Telegraph to Win the Civil War) and Edward Longacre (Worthy Opponents: William T. Sherman and Joseph E. Johnston). For reservations and more information, visit www.PritzkerMilitaryLibrary.org.

On October 28th, there will be a ceremony in Vicksburg to honor the 100th anniversary of that battlefield's Illinois Monument, a monument our CWRT donated money to restore. Ex-President Bob Miller is looking for a person to represent our CWRT at the ceremony. If you'd like to go, phone Bob at (773) 651-7000.

Jerry and JoEllen Kowalski will be addressing some 800 students at the Dollinger Farm in Minooka on October 20th.

Larry Hewitt spoke on "How Lincoln Won the War" September 30th at the 5th Annual Blue & Gray Education Society symposium in Amherst, Massachusetts.

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

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Lapel pins, Meeting Tapes and other items are on sale at each monthly meeting, with proceeds to go to battlefield preservation. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

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.

DUES REMINDER

It's that time of year again, to get in your dues for The CWRT's 2006-2007 year.

IN MEMORIUM

Our good friend **Steve Stewart** passed away in early September after a lengthy illness. A 25 year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, Steve was an avid Civil War researcher and preservationist. As Vice President of our CWRT he spearheaded efforts to preserve battlefields and battle flags. An active member of the Sons of Union Veterans, his research and efforts resulted in the installing or replacing of over 50 headstones of Civil War veterans buried in local cemeteries. He also gave talks on his favorite unit, the 89th Illinois Infantry (Railroad regiment). Steve leaves a widow, Julie, and a daughter, Margaret, who have our deepest sympathy.

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*.

Oct. 13 (Nevins-Freeman Address): **Dr. Gordon Dammann**, "Father of Battlefield Medicine—Dr. Jonathan Letterman"

Nov. 10: **Bob O'Neill**, "Learning to Lead: Buford, Merritt, Cooke and Custer"

Dec. 8: **David Bridges**, "Jeb Stuart's Horse Artillery"

Jan. 12, 2007: **Kurt Carlson**, "Chicago During the Civil War"

Feb. 9: **Dan Paterson**, "A Longstreet Pictorial History"

March 9: **Pete Cozzens**, "The Valley Campaign"

April 13: **Robert E. L. Krick**, Topic to be determined

May 11: **Rebecca Cumins**, "Battlefield Preservation"

June 9: **John Coski**, "The Confederate Battle Flag"

Tom Chaffin, author of a new book on the cruise of the CSS Shenandoah and our scheduled December speaker, has had to cancel due to illness. We wish Tom a speedy recovery. David Bridges, author of a new book on Jeb Stuart's artillery, will be speaking instead.