THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXVIII, Number 6 | Chicago, Illinois | February, 2007

658th REGULAR MEETING

DAN PATERSON

ON

A LONGSTREET

PICTORIAL HISTORY

★★★★★

Friday, Feb. 9

★★★★★

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.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Feb. 5**, 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, Feb. 7, 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.

William D. Paterson on "A Longstreet Pictorial History"

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Through most of the war, Robert E. Lee's second-in-command was his senior corps commander, James Longstreet, not the more publicized "Stonewall" Jackson. Lee relied upon the advice and executive abilities of the soldier he called his "old warhorse" in actions varying from the successful counter-attack at 2nd Manassas to the staunch defense of Marye's Heights.

Yet after Lee's 1870 death, attacks on Longstreet's war record became common. In part this was due to Longstreet's sometimes contentious personality. In larger part, this was due to Longstreet not being part of the Virginia clique that dominated postwar southern historiography. To this day historians are divided on whether Longstreet was a battlefield tactician without peer (Warner, Catton) or a "humbug" (in the words of one of his subordinates)—a brave fighter of limited abilities.

On Feb. 9th Dan Paterson will give a comprehensive visual history in power point of the Longstreet family starting with the general's great-grandfather, Gen. John Dent of the American Revolution, and continuing with the inventor William Longstreet, the scholar Augustus Baldwin Longstreet, to the General himself, including wartime and postwar photos and prints, concluding with photos of the Longstreet Gettysburg monument project ceremonies from 1998 thru 2001. The presentation also includes family photographs, newspaper clippings and even pictures from the General's personal photo album spanning two centuries and several wars.

William D. Paterson

A native of Washington, D.C., Dan Paterson works as a network engineer in Centreville, VA. He is Past President of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table, a Board Member of the Longstreet Society, an active re-enactor with the "Chesapeake Volunteer Guards", and a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Mr. Paterson is the great-grandson of General Longstreet, and has spoken to many CWRTs on the topic of his great-grandfather.

Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee Met in December: The BPF committee of the CWRT met on December 2, 2006 at Flapjacks Restaurant in Niles. All members in good standing of the CWRT are invited to attend BPF committee meetings; notice of same, as well as the date and site of the December meeting, was given in this newsletter's November and December 2006 editions. BPF committee members present were M. Abroe, N. Bates, L. Gibbs, R. Girardi, R. Radovich, and D. Zucker; BPF committee members absent were M. Krolick and J. Kowalski. Minutes are as follows:

1.) Approval: new membership in Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island (Ohio) Civil War Prison ($250)

2.) Approval: renewal of current memberships in National Museum of Civil War Medicine ($500); Perryville Battlefield Preservation Assn. ($250); Mill Springs (Kentucky) Battlefield Assn. ($140); Civil War Preservation Trust ($500); and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust ($250)

3.) Approval: donation to Newtonia Battlefields Protection Assn. ($100) [N.B. As of December 2006, the CWRT already was a life member of the NBPA (at $100). The BPF committee voted to make a $100 donation to that group in support of its current efforts to preserve the Ritchey Mansion and other properties.]

4.) Approval: supplementation of individual members' donations to Margie Riddle Bearss Memorial Fund with up to $99 from Battlefield Preservation Fund [N.B. At the conclusion of a three-month collection period–October through December--for individual donations to the Bearss Memorial Fund, the total was $915. As endorsed by the BPF committee at its December meeting, the sum of $85 was added to round that total to the nearest $100; thus the CWRT contributed $1,000 to the Bearss family's chosen charity, the Civil War Preservation Trust, in Margie Bearss's memory.]

5.) Next meeting of BPF committee: Sat., Feb. 17, 2007 at 9:00 A.M. (prior to the CWRT Executive Committee meeting at 9:30 A.M. at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street, South Holland, Illinois)

6.) Discussion of new funding strategies for BPF committee

7.) Discussion of future contributions to Beauvoir; Museum of the Confederacy; and Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Assn. (Rochester, Minnesota)

CWRT Receives Thanks for Donations: Within the past month we received notes of gratitude for contributions/membership renewals to several preservation organizations. From Dr. David Bush, chair of Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island, came the following sentiments: "Thank you very much for your recent gift of $250....Your organization's support of historic preservation allows us to remain steadfast in our goal to permanently safeguard and maintain the island for future educational and research programs....You have our continued gratitude and appreciation."

Karen Thomassen, deputy director and membership coordinator of the NMCWM, addressed her institution's thanks to members of the CWRT: "The National Museum of Civil War Medicine would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your membership donation of $500 for a General Hospital membership....We appreciate your continued interest in the museum and are very pleased to renew your membership."

Christopher Kolakowski, executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, thanked us for our membership renewal: "On behalf of...PBPA, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your generous donation of $250 on behalf of The Civil War Roundtable of Chicago. As we continue our mission to preserve and interpret the history of Perryville, we could not achieve these goals without enthusiastic help from our members and partners....Your gift will help us move towards our goals." [And his handwritten addendum was as follows: "Thank you for your support! We will have to get you all down for a tour." Note: The Executive Committee-approved site/theme for the 2009 battlefield tour is Kentucky-Lincoln, and Perryville is on the itinerary.]

Finally the Civil War Round Table received a note of gratitude from David Weems of the Newtonia Battlefields Protection Association: "Thanks for your gift of $100.00 to NBPA. The Chicago CWRT has been a source of support for our efforts at preserving the Newtonia Battlefields. That support has nourished our hopes as well as our finances. It really helps to know that people in other areas are behind us."

Time for the Sixth Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award Has Arrived: Members of the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee will accept donations to the Bearss Preservation Award "account" from the present through the 2007 battlefield tour itself. (Committee members are Mary Abroe, Nancy Bates, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Jerome Kowalski, Marshall Krolick, Rae Radovich, and David Zucker.) As instituted by the CWRT executive committee in mid-2001, the Bearss Award honors our good friend and longstanding battlefield tour leader by contributing $1,000 in his name to the preservation project/organization that Ed himself deems most deserving.

The first recipient was the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, followed by the Kernstown Battlefield Association, the Land Conservancy of Adams County (Gettysburg), and dual winners in 2005 (Friends of Raymond, Mississippi and the Franklin, Tennessee campaign of the CWPT) and in 2006 (Camp Wildcat, Kentucky Preservation Foundation and the Richmond Battlefields Association); our donors' generosity in 2006 allowed the CWRT to donate $1,500 apiece to Camp Wildcat and Richmond on Ed's behalf. All of the previous awardees share proven track records of effective preservation activism. Ed will announce his decision regarding this year's recipient during our 57th annual battlefield tour, War-Time Washington, D.C. and the Booth Escape Route (May 3-6, 2007).

Members also may send donations to BPF Treasurer Mary Abroe, 212 Woodbine Avenue, Wilmette, Illinois 60091-3332. Please make checks payable to "Battlefield Preservation Fund/CWRT" and put "Bearss Preservation Award" on the memo line. All contributions will be acknowledged in the tour program and the CWRT newsletter. Thank you!

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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.

JANUARY MEETING

By Larry Gibbs

On January 12th Kurt Carlson presented an informative talk titled "Backing the Boys: Chicago Business and Industry in the Civil War" before 84 members and guests at the 657th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A long-time member and former president of this Round Table, Kurt is a lawyer from Wheaton, Illinois. He has made many presentations to other Round Tables. His well-received speech emphasized the agricultural, industrial, banking and other business in Chicago during the war.

War profiteering in Chicago during the Civil War was rampant, and involved names prominent in this city today. Potter Palmer, later of the Palmer House, made huge profits selling cotton (bought at pre-war prices) from his dry goods store on Lake Street. Palmer's clerk, Marshall Field, later took over that business. Philip Armour started his meat-packing empire in 1865 with his gamble that pork prices would drop significantly if the war suddenly ended. After Appomattox Armour bought pork at the new reduced prices to fill future pork supply contracts he'd signed earlier at the higher, wartime price.

"Illinois was on the verge of a great future in the 1860s", asserted Carlson. "In 1860 Illinois was on the frontier with great potential." Many immigrants had come to the Midwest for cheap farm land. Illinois doubled its population from 1850 to 1860, and Chicago mushroomed. Railroads were the key to Chicago's economic development. It was the hub of a network of railroads, including the Illinois Central.

Manufacture of agricultural machinery was important to Chicago's prosperity. Cyrus McCormick, a Virginia native and open Copperhead, perfected a grain reaper that became vital to farmers. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton stated that the reaper was necessary to win the war. Even though the population had access to raw materials and railroad transportation, a missing piece was access to capital. During the war loans and credits from banks were expanded with The Legal Tender Act of 1862 and The Banking Act of 1863. This monetary expansion allowed modern industry to begin in Chicago.

Illinois became the largest primary grain-producing state for the Union. The Midwest became the supplier of grains to the Union army. During the war giant Chicago stockyards were created to hold the cattle and hogs the railroads brought in from Kansas and other places. The traffic also brought prosperity to the railroads, particularly the Illinois Central, a railroad both Lincoln and Stanton had done legal work for. Fortunately for the city's future, it did not become a big weapons making source, so the food and transportation businesses the war built up could thrive in peacetime. "It is important to realize that Chicago's [wartime prosperity] was not built on weapons, but on farming, textiles, steel and railroads," proclaimed Carlson. "Also, Chicago was the center for a stable currency. The Civil War was the turning point for economic prosperity for Illinois and Chicago."

The war also provided new opportunities for Chicago's women. At first the army tried to stop women from becoming nurses, but that situation soon changed. In October 1863, Mary Livermore and the Sanitary Commission staged a bazaar in Chicago which raised huge sums of money for soldier's aid. She then went to visit many army units on the front lines to check on the distribution of the goods. In a less charitable vein, other Chicago women turned to prostitution, taking advantage of homesick soldiers looking for a good time. By one estimate, wartime Chicago had one prostitute for every 31.7 residents.

Many Confederate POWs were sent to Camp Douglas, located on Chicago's south side. Supplying the POWs became another big business, and another source of profit. About 6000 prisoners died at the prison camp, in part because rations were reduced to two meals a day in 1864. St. Luke's Hospital began as a wartime Confederate POW hospital.

The Union won the Civil War in large part due to the efforts of Abraham Lincoln. After Lincoln's assassination, his body was brought back to Chicago by railroad, in a luxury railroad car manufactured by Chicago's own George Pullman. According to Carlson's interpretation, the farm-born Lincoln represented the last president of the old America, while the steel tracks of the railroad and the Pullman car represented the new America, with enormous potential for Illinois and Chicago.

BEARSS MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

Thanks to the following for contributing to the Margie Riddle Bearss Memorial Fund in fall 2006: Mary & Mike Abroe, Nancy Bates, Battlefield Preservation Fund-CWRT, Bob Carlson, Kurt Carlson & Janet Linhart, Terry Carr, Jim Cunningham, Karen & Gordy Dammann, Brooks Davis, Marybeth Foley, Larry Gibbs, Rob and Eric Girardi, Larry Hewitt, Millie Jarvis, JoEllen & Jerome Kowalski, Marshall Krolick, Richard McAdoo, Roger Rudich, Brian Seiter, Ruth & Donald Sender, Patricia K. Sumner, Paulette Whitt, and Jackie Wilson.

Grapeshot

The Kankakee Valley CWRT is having its annual Symposium on Saturday, March 31st, at the Bon Vivant Country Club in Bourbonnias, IL. Featured speakers include our own Kurt Carlson, on "Backing the Boys: Chicago Industry in the Civil War", and Marshall Krolick on "Council of War: Gettysburg, July 2, 1863", plus John Marszalek on "Henry W. Halleck and William T. Sherman" and Gordon Rhea on "Generalship of Grant & Lee during the Overland Campaign". The cost is $50, and includes lunch. This is the 16th symposium they've put on and its always a great affair. For more information, phone (815) 939-1041 or email mhess@yahoo.com.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee of the CWRT will be having its annual midyear meeting Saturday, Feb. 17th, starting at 9:30 A.M. at the South Holland Community Center, 501 E. 170th Street, South Holland, Illinois. The agenda and other items for discussion will be mailed to all Executive Committee Members prior to the meeting. The meeting is open to all CWRT members.

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.

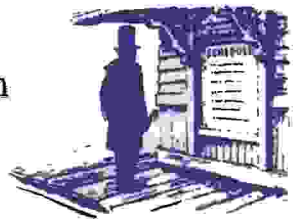
Lowell Reidenbaugh

A longtime member of our Round Table, Lowell H. Reidenbaugh, passed away Jan. 20th in St. Louis, at the age of 87. Lowell Reidenbaugh was senior editor of Sporting News for many years, and a nationally recognized authority of the Civil War. His presence graced many of our CWRTs battlefield tours. He spoke to us in 1977 ("The Valley Campaign') and 1981 ("Jackson at White Oak Swamp").

According to friends, Lowell used his vacation time to scour battlegrounds and cemeteries. He discovered the burial place of Stonewall Jackson's left arm (amputated after his Chancellorsville wound) and was instrumental in restoring the burial plot. Lowell also wrote histories of two Virginia regiments, and a book on Stonewall Jackson at Kernstown. His den was described as a shrine to his hero, Stonewall Jackson, with a striking collection of Jackson artifacts, including a swatch of a blanket reputed to have covered Jackson as he lay dying.

Lowell died one day shy of Stonewall's birthday. He will be missed.

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.*

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"

Book Signing

On Sunday, Feb. 11th, Virtual Book Signing will celebrate the 198th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth (Feb. 12th) with a live webcast, featuring two leading Lincoln scholars. Harold Holzer will be signing his new book, *Abraham Lincoln Portrayed in the Collections of the Indiana Historical Society*, and Frank J. Williams will be signing a new book he co-authored, *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*. The event will also feature an in-store book signing at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 357 West Chicago Ave. in Chicago. Both authors have long been associated with our Round Table. To reserve your signed copies of these titles visit www.VirtualBooksigning.net or phone (312) 944-3085.