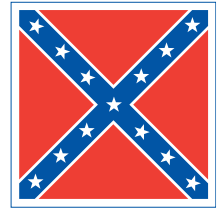


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVIII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 2007



## 665th REGULAR MEETING

JOHN Y. SIMON

ON

“COULD THE SOUTH HAVE WON THE CIVIL WAR?”

★★★★★

Friday, November 9

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

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

**\$35 - Members/Non-members**

*Entrée:*

*Roast Pork Loin.*

*Catch of the Day.*

*Vegetarian Plate*

*or Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Nov. 5** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing [chicagocwrt-dinner@earthlink.net](mailto:chicagocwrt-dinner@earthlink.net) with the names of your party and their choice of entrée. Reservations made after Wednesday, Nov. 7, will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday to avoid a charge.

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 \$10 with a validated parking sticker.*

### John Y. Simon

on

## Could the South Have Won the Civil War?

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

As our nation headed for conflict in the Spring of 1861, many observers in the U.S. and abroad felt the advantages lay with the South and ultimate Confederate independence. The sheer size of the new Confederate nation led many to believe that conquest would be difficult, if not impossible. Others thought that the North simply didn't have the will to muster the necessary manpower and money to subjugate the inhabitants of the seceding states. As the Charleston (SC) Mercury editorialized four days into the war, "The South is invincible.... A war of invasion by the North against the South, we do not expect to see. It will be most fatal to the interest of the North."

On November 9, 2007, John Y. Simon will explore this topic. Professor Simon will focus on

a series of decisions influenced the outcome, beginning with Jefferson Davis's choice of firing on Fort Sumter, moving to the violation of Kentucky neutrality, and to the persistent tension between the differing strategies of Davis and



John Y. Simon

Robert E. Lee. He will note the conventionality of much Confederate thinking about military operations and query whether a less conventional approach might have fared better.

John Y. Simon received a B.A. at Swarthmore College in 1955 and a Ph.D. in history at Harvard University in 1961. He taught at Ohio State University, began editing The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant in 1962, and in 1964 moved to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where he is professor of history as well as editor of the Grant Papers, with 28 published volumes. He is a founder of the Association for Documentary Editing and a spokesman for the craft.

Professor Simon is an Honorary Life Member of our CWRT and has spoken here many times. In 1985 the CWRT gave him the Nevins-Freeman Award for his distinguished career as a historian.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

**Harpers Ferry:** On the evening of August 17th, 2007, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) sponsored a vigil to call attention to the government's lack of action one year after developers illegally dug 1900 feet to lay water and sewer lines. 80 people attended the vigil which featured nearly one hundred torches blowing in the wind, a long line of 1900 feet next to the trench the developers dug.

On Saturday, August 19, 2006, without warning, the developers arrived with heavy machinery and began to dig across the Park's Perry Orchard Property on School House Ridge. Attempts by park officials and even a National Park Solicitor (NPS) were unavailing. By the end of the following day developers Herb Jonkers, Gene Capriotte and Lee Snyder had installed the lines to their 411 acre Old Standard tract, vastly increasing its value and ability to be developed.

CWPT spokesman Mary Goundrey was among those present for the vigil. "Once it started getting dark it was really fascinating to see," she said. The trust spaced the torches about 18 feet apart along the line of the dig. "It really showed how long and how massive this trench had been." The distance was deceptive because the land rose and fell, she added, "Having the points of light on it was really jaw-dropping."

Other groups present included the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), and friends of Harpers Ferry NHP.

The fact that a year has passed without action against the developer's raised varying levels of frustration among vigil attendees.

One was Park Superintendent Don Campbell. In a phone conversation with the "Civil War News", Campbell disclosed for the first time that he had

urged the United States Attorney in West Virginia to take immediate action while the dig was underway.

"On the date that this was taking place, I personally talked with the U.S. Attorney about getting an injunction," Campbell said, "This was a matter for the Courts and an injunction would be the proper way to go. I was not supported in that regard. So the developers were free to go forward."

Campbell stated, however, that things have not been quiet behind the scenes.

"Lawyers representing NPS, The Justice Department and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) have met or conferenced many, many times over the past year, preparatory for preparing the government's case," he said.

"A great amount of time, and energy and expense has been expended on this case to date. I would have thought by now there'd be disposition."

After their success in laying the pipes, the developers twice attempted to convince local officials to rezone the Old Standard tract for intense development.

In April their proposal to annex the property to the city of Charlestown five miles distant was narrowly defeated. The plan called for two million square feet of office space, hundreds of homes, a hotel, and a marina. In July, the Jefferson County Commission nixed a similar plan.

In August the developer's asserted their right to resume mining on the property, once a limestone quarry. Scot Faulkner, head of the friends of Harpers Ferry NHP, pointed out that the quarry had ceased operating nearly four decades ago, and the mine was under nearly 90 feet of water.

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
9670 N. Dee #205  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
[www.thecwrt.org](http://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 [bsallardice1@peoplepc.com](mailto:bsallardice1@peoplepc.com).

Faulkner, who has spearheaded opposition to the developers and who was one of four speakers at the August 17th vigil, noted that the developers claimed the right to lay the pipes because they held an easement on the Park Land. But there are similar easements on public lands all around the country, he said, and an easement holder is required to follow a Federal Permitting Process.

In this case the developers applied for a permit but then dropped it, claiming they did not have to go through the process.

"For somebody to go onto one of those parcels with an easement and not go through any permitting process, and destroy resources is horrendously dangerous," Faulkner said. "but this administration has not acted."

He urged Battlefield Supporters to "flood" the headquarters of the Justice and Interior Departments with letters, calls, and e-mails.

"We are just stunned and appalled that the matter has taken over a year now," said Faulkner. As for the developers, "I have to hand it to them for creativity. They have threatened throughout that if they didn't get their way they'd put in a sea of houses."

Info from October 2007 "[Civil War](#)" News

## OCTOBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On October 12 A. Wilson Greene gave an informative program on "Civil War Petersburg" to 65 members and guest at the 664th regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Greene has written several books on the Civil War. His most recent book, Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War (2 vols.) was the basis for the presentation. He has been the tour director of many cruises and tours. A great proponent of battlefield preservation, Will is currently the President and CEO of Pamplin Park Historical Park near Petersburg, Virginia. His speech concentrated on the background of historical Petersburg, and life in the city during the war.

"Petersburg was the seventh largest city in the Confederacy in 1861, the second largest city in Virginia after Richmond" declared Greene. Petersburg was the hub for five railroads, a center for marketing and industry. Tobacco and cotton trade contributed to Petersburg's importance. Petersburg's 18,000 residents were split equally between Whites and Blacks, and about 26% of the Blacks were free.

In 1861 a majority of Whites at first did not support secession, but public opinion shifted quickly after President Lincoln's inaugural address implied Union coercion of the seceding states. Petersburg suffered a decline during the war due to shortages and inflation. The Union blockade cut off the city's thriving tobacco export trade. Army demands on transportation and manpower ruined its industry. By 1864 inflation in Confederate Petersburg was 800% a year. Meanwhile, wages increased only 50%. Credit was gone and the Confederate government printed more money which only created more inflation.

Wartime Petersburg saw an increase in crime, teen gangs, and severe restrictions on social life. In 1862 martial law was declared, followed by conscription. Enthusiasm for the war, which swept the city in 1861, diminished abruptly in 1862.

Greene proclaimed,

"Petersburg had a direct role in the war. D. H. Hill placed a cordon of defenses around Petersburg with 55 artillery batteries." Because of its strategic location—23 miles south of the Confederate capitol of Richmond, the hub of the railroads connecting Richmond with the South--Petersburg was linked with the Confederate government. Noted generals such as Longstreet, Pickett, and D. H. Hill were at one time or another were in charge at Petersburg.

In the Spring of 1864 Union General Ben Butler landed an army of 35,000 men near Petersburg, in conjunction with Grant's drive south. Butler's troops outnumbered the Confederate garrisons near Petersburg and could have easily captured the city, but, under Butler's erratic leadership, failed to act. The Confederate government sent in reinforcements and, after a victory at Drewry's Bluff (May 16, 1864), saved the railroads. On June 9, 1864, a battalion of Petersburg civilian reservists, 150 old men and boys, repulsed an attack by a cavalry division of Butler's command. This skirmish signaled the beginning of the longest campaign of the war.

From June 15 to June 18, 1864, Union General U. S. Grant captured part of the outer defenses of Petersburg, but further attacks bogged down when further Confederate reinforcements helped man the inner defenses. The siege of Petersburg began. For ten months the city was bombed, creating more psychological than military damage. Asserted Greene, "Petersburg was not under siege, because the inhabitants could leave freely. Some refugees returned, Petersburg was not encircled at any time, but was under constant artillery attack."

Perhaps the most famous incident during the campaign was the Battle of the Crater (July 30, 1864). One-half mile southeast of Petersburg, Union troops dug out a mine shaft underneath the Confederate lines, then packed 8000 pounds of black powder in the mine. At 4:44 a.m. the powder was

exploded, blowing a gaping hole in the defenses. The plan was for Union troops to go around the exploded crater, break the Confederate line, and capture Petersburg. But, through bad orders and worse leadership, the troops (including many Black regiments) stayed inside the crater, and presented perfect targets for the Confederate counterattack. The result was a Union disaster, with thousands of troops killed and captured.

The Petersburg Campaign concluded on April 2, 1865. The Confederate defenders were stretched so thin that the Union 6 Corps was able to break through. Petersburg and soon Richmond fell, with Lee's army surrendering a week later. On August 3, 1865, civilian rule was reinstated for the first time since 1861.

The modern legacy of war-torn Petersburg is still visible. The growth of nearby Richmond has eclipsed the "Cockade City", which is little bigger than it was in 1861.



### LIST OF CWRT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS (cont.)

Asst. Secretary and membership co-chair: Paulette Whitt  
 Tour: Jerry Allen  
 Membership/hospitality: Donna Tuohy  
 Inspectors General: Dave Zucker, Tom Trescott  
 Dinner reservations: Mary Beth Foley  
 Registrar: Rae Radovich  
 Ways & Means: Kurt Carlson  
 Battlefield Preservation: Rob Girardi  
 Honors: Marshall Krolick  
 Nevins-Freeman Award: Dan Weinberg  
 Nominations: Nancy Bates  
 Raffle/Boutique: Rob Girardi  
 Sites: Roger Bohn  
 Archives: Jacquie Wilson  
 Audio/Photos: Hal Ardell  
 Publicity: Janet Linhart  
 Membership Development: Rae Radovich  
 Site Recommendations: Bob Stoller  
 Newsletter: Bruce Allardice

## GRAPESHOT



On Veteran's Day (Nov. 11th) the Sons of Union Veterans, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and other organizations will be holding a ceremony at **Rosehill Cemetery** honoring our nation's war dead. The proceedings begin at 11 a.m.

The **DuPage County Historical Museum** will salute our nation's veterans on Thursday, Nov. 8th, with a ceremony and special programming. The proceedings start at 5 p.m. For more information, contact the museum at (630) 682-7343, or go to [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum).

The **Blue Island Park District CWRT** will have Dr. Elizabeth Pryor speaking on "The Private Life of R. E. Lee". The event features a "dinner with Lincoln", featuring carved turkey and all the fixings. Admission to the dinner and presentation is \$10. For more information, phone (708) 385-3304 or log onto [www.blueislandparks.org](http://www.blueislandparks.org).

Past President **Roger Bohn** recently conducted a training session at the Wheaton College ROTC, involving the mechanics of the loading and firing of a Civil War rifle musket. Also covered were the changes in field tactics that this technological innovation created.

Roger also conducted a session at the College of DuPage on the subject of the Union Naval Blockade during the Civil War.

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](mailto:bsallardice1@peoplepc.com) or (847) 375-8305.

### SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at [hal229@ameritech.net](mailto:hal229@ameritech.net) or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

### SLAUGHTER PEN FARM WILL BENEFIT FROM NOVEMBER DRAWING/AUCTION

The proceeds of our regular book drawing and silent auction from the upcoming November meeting will be donated to the Slaughter Pen Farm campaign of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). This fine organization, the winner of our 1st Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award, has pledged \$1 million (to the Civil War Preservation Trust) toward the \$12-million purchase price for Fredericksburg's Slaughter Pen Farm. According to executive director Linda Wandres, the CVBT is about two-thirds of the way toward its goal. Here is a specific need where the Civil War Round Table of Chicago can make a difference; the Battlefield Preservation Fund will match our members' generosity up to \$500. Please help!

CWRT President **Roger Rudich** wants to hear from **you!** If you have any suggestions or complaints about the CWRT, contact Roger at (312) 236-5406 x 306.

The CWRT would like to thank the **Chicago History Museum**, and specifically Russell Lewis of the CHM, for hosting the CWRT's summer 2007 Executive Committee meeting.

## 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*.

**Nov. 9:** **John Simon**, "Could the South Have Won the Civil War?"

**Dec. 14:** **Gordon Rhea**, "Charles Whilden and the Wilderness"

**Jan. 11, 2008:** **Ed Cotham**, "Civil War Marines"

**Feb. 8:** **David Long**, Topic TBD

**March 14:** **Brian Wills**, "Civil War in Cinema"

**April 11:** **Jennifer Weber**, "Copperheads"

**May 9:** **Stephen Engel**, "Franz Sigel"

**June 13:** **Bill Farina**, "U. S. Grant"

### Virtual Book Signings

Julie M. Fenster will sign her new book, The Case of Abraham Lincoln, in the continuing series of Virtual Book Signings, at noon on Nov. 10th. The Oct. 20 book signing of Bob Miller's new book, Both Prayed to the Same God, at the Abraham Lincoln Bookstore can be watched via the internet. The web address for accessing and watching these signings is [www.VirtualBookSigning.net](http://www.VirtualBookSigning.net).