Grapeshot

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Bulletin Board

Upcoming Civil War Events

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Bjorn Skaptason at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be 6 p.m., Nov. 5th, with Joan Waugh talking about her new book, U.S. Grant, American Hero, American Myth. On Nov. 21st, at noon, Philip Kunhardt and Earl Malo will talk about their new book Lincoln LifeStx and Slave and the Supreme Court. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincolnbookshop.com

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June 11: John V. Quarstein, "Battle of the Ironclads"

Medical update: Larry Gibbs had successful hip replacement surgery this month, and is recuperating at his sister's house. Get well cards can be sent to Larry, c/o Marilyn Gibbs, 2029 Villa Pines Circle, Carbon Cliff, IL 61239.

On Nov. 14, Bob Girardi will be speaking to the Docutax (IL) CWRT.

Long time CWRT member Harold Leichenko passed away Oct. 9th after a long illness, survived by his wife Eleanor, also a long time member. Our deepest sympathies to the Leichenko family.

Bob Miller has recently given talks on "Religion and the Civil War" to the CWRTs in Madison, IN, and Minneapolis, MN.

The Chicago History Museum is currently featuring "Lincoln at 200", an online exhibit with over 200 images of Illinois's president, along with an in-house exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln Transformed."

The Lincoln Square Theatre, 4754 N. Leavitt St., Chicago, will present "Ambrose Bierce: Tales & Times", from Oct. 22 to Nov. 22. Tickets are $15. The Oct. 31st show will feature a post-show presentation on "Bierce and the Civil War" by our own Bjorn Skaptason. Phone (773) 218-8144 for more details.

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As a follow up to the shady vote that allowed Walmart to progress with its building plans adjacent to Wilderness Battlefield, a local group citizens and historians in coalition with the National Trust for Historic Preservation have recently filed a lawsuit in Susquehanna County. This lawsuit seeks to address the alleged very serious breaches in process that went on during the course of the用地 development with Walmart and will force Walmart to delay breaking ground. We can only hope that by continuing to resist the ill-conceived location of the Walmart store, reason will prevail. Nobody objects to new jobs and new stores...just not at the expense of our historic heritage.

Civil War Preservation Trust has begun a new campaign to purchase 85 acres at Chancellorsville, comprising the ground where Stonewall Jackson’s Corps attacked the Federal positions on May 2, 1863 after executing his flank march. This piece of ground, is, in the words of Robert K. Kanke, “the most important piece of unprotected battlefield land,” in the country. The total cost for this ground is $2,125,000. There is a matching fund program as associated with this project.

Similarly, 94 acres of Wilderness Battlefield is also part of a CWPT project. It will take $500,000 to conserve this ground and it will provide a buffer against new development like the Walmart store. The location, at 1039 Hinswood Drive, Ilinois 62956, can be contacted at bs1861@att.net.

The Civil War Round Table is the Battlefield Preservation Committee is available from the Civil War Round Table. Before 84 members and 5 attempts, and an owner recouped his costs with one successful run. Some 300 ships participated in blockade running, but eventually 73% were captured, destroyed, or lost. A high percentage of imported war material sustained the southern war effort; however, shortages in many items, tea and coffee, for example, caused hoarding and speculation and affected civilian morale. More important, the pre-war southern economy was dependent on the export of cotton. The year after Fort Sumter, the Confederacy exported 50,000 bales of cotton, compared to 2.98 million shipped the year prior. The shortfall of revenue from cotton exports increased the Federal government’s total expenditures for the navy during the war.

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**Battlefield Preservation**

By Rob Girardi

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**Pritzker Military Library Receives Award**

Chicago’s Pritzker Military Library has been named one of the 10 recipients of the 2009 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation’s highest honor for museums and libraries. The library, at 610 North Fairbanks Court in Chicago, hosts a series of events featuring talks by military historians. Visit pritzkermilitarylibrary.org for information on the library, its events, and their podcasts.

Wade’s report to the city speculated that additional evidence of battle, such as projectile fuses or sabots, were still deep in the ground or had been excava
ted before the golf course was built. He recommended that the city consider further surveying of the property whenever dirt was moved and that the property be posted against use of metal detectors by the general public.

**October Meeting**

By Mark Matranga

On October 9th, at the 684th meeting of the Civil War Round Table, before 84 members and guests, Dr. Craig L. Symonds delivered the 2009 Nevins-Freeman address on “The Blockade: A Reassessment.” Dr. Symonds related the organization, characteristics, and effects of the blockade which assisted in undermining the Confederate government, its economy, and its war effort. He punctuated this entertaining and informative speech with the drawings of Dr. Charles Ellery Steadman, a ship’s doctor who depicted life aboard a blockade ship.

The navy’s primary role in the war was to establish, maintain, and manage a blockade of the southern coastline. Symonds presented compelling legal difficulties for the Lincoln administration. First, the blockade required an effective force covering every navigable river or port. The south had a coastline 3,500 miles long, and at the outset of the war the U.S. Navy had 42 warships, only 12 of which were available for service. Also, declaring a blockade implied a legitimacy for the Lincoln administration, which was an important function for reserve 50% of their space to government cotton. Davis also proposed that importation of high value luxury goods be forbidden.

Did the blockade work? Blockade runners were successful in 4 out of 5 attempts, and an owner recouped his costs with one successful run. Some 300 ships participated in blockade running, but eventually 73% were captured, destroyed, or lost. A high percentage of imported war material sustained the southern war effort; however, shortages in many items, tea and coffee, for example, caused hoarding and speculation and affected civilian morale. More important, the pre-war southern economy was dependent on the export of cotton. The year after Fort Sumter, the Confederacy exported 50,000 bales of cotton, compared to 2.98 million shipped the year prior. The shortfall of revenue from cotton exports increased the Federal government’s total expenditures for the navy during the war.

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Civil War Preservation Trust has be gun a new campaign to purchase 85 acres at Chancellorsville, comprising the ground where Stonewall Jackson’s Corps attacked the Federal position on May 2, 1863 after executing his flank march. This piece of ground, is, in the words of Robert K. Kurz, “the most important piece of unprotected battlefield land,” in the country. The total cost for this ground is $2,125,000. There is a fund raising campaign associated with this project.

Similarly, 94 acres of Wilderness Battlefield is also part of a CWPT project. It will take $950,000 to preserve this ground and it will provide a buffer against new development like the Walmart project. There is an 8 to 1 matching fund arrangement for this project.

Since the Civil War, the state of Illinois is working in the Wilderness in April, I encourage all members to consider contributing to this worthy project. Let’s all work to save the places we like to visit—so that we may continue to do so.

I would like to remind all members that support Battlefield Preservation at the monthly meetings. Buy a raffle ticket or ten...grab a good book from the battlefield Bookshelf, purchase some of the Civil War Notable notecards, or donate a few dollars just because...

From Civil War News, a reminder how preservation money has preserved battle sites—”Thanks to discoveries after metal detector surveying of former golf course sand traps on the Eastern Flank of the Franklin Battlefield, a Franklin City Alderman wants to require surveys of any historical land before it is developed.

Alderman Mike Skinner said such surveys would not be at a developer’s expense and would allow recovered artifacts to be removed for preservation and study.

Skinner was inspired by the August survey report that Gregory L. Wade presented to the City of Franklin Parks Department which directed the metal detector survey of the city-owned tracts. The Eastern Flank survey was preceded by a similar survey a year ago on Harlinsdale Farm, which the city bought for a park. .... Based on that successful experience and relationship, the Parks Department’s Deanne Schiefel noticed last year asked Wade if he would like to organize a relic survey on the Eastern Flank park land where former Franklin Country Club sand traps were being removed.

It is known that Confederates crossed the 110-acre tract before entering into some of the Battle of Franklin’s heaviest fighting and they were aided by artillery from Fort Granger. Franklin’s Charge preservation coalition bought the $35,000 property in 2005 to prevent its development when the country club was put up for sale. ....

The third day... Michael Johnson’s detector gave a signal for iron and he found a 6-pdr. cannon ball 18-20 inches deep. More days of searching turned up more trash, then some good finds including the base of an exploded Hotchkiss shell, one round of iron grape shot and a shell fragment. All of these were documented with GPS coordinates, photos and descriptions that Wade provided based on reference sources.

Wade’s report to the city speculated that additional evidence of battle, such as projectile fuses or sabots, were still deep in the ground or had been excavated before the golf course was built. He recommended that the city consider further surveying of the property whenever dirt is moved and that the property be posted against use of metal detectors by the general public.

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Secretary of the Navy Welles initiated a crash building program transforming merchant ships into warships. This program of “90 day ships” was led by George D. Morris, under whose supervision 49 ships were converted. One, the Monticello, was converted in 24 hours. By the end of 1861, the union had 264 ships in service, and at the end of the war, 671. Organizing the blockade was assigned to the Blockade Board headed by Admiral DuPont who divided the navy into four squadrons covering the North Atlantic (Virginia/N. Carolina), South Atlantic (S. Carolina/ Georgia/Florida), and the East and West Gulf. Establishing coaling stations was an important function as well—the seizure of Port Royal, South Carolina, was undertaken for this purpose.

Life in the blockade was a “dull, tedious routine” where nothing would happen for weeks on end. When black smoke appeared on the horizon or coming out of a harbor a flurry of activity would ensue. Since most attempts to run the blockade occurred at night it was difficult to determine if an incoming vessel were friend or foe. Most blockade runners were fast, low silhouette sidewheelers painted grayish blue, making them difficult to detect. Dr. Symonds cited the episode of the Keystone State, a notorious runner Nashville over 300 miles and eventually caused that ship to jettison its cargo of cotton, so nonappearance was not credited with a seizure – the rebel ship escaped. He also related the story of the Banake, carrying 200 tons of gunpowder, which after a harrowing night of near collision with and bombardment by five blockade ships finally found shelter under the guns of Fort Fisher.

The northern press used every southern success to criticize the blockade, New York Herald editor James Gordon Bennett calling it an "imbecile." Furthermore, it undermined the Southern economy and reduce exports, but it wasn’t well enough to require all outbound vessels to reserve 50% of their space to government cotton. Davis also proposed that importation of high value luxury goods be forbidden.

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The Round Table is a genuine interest in the American Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinwood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact bsa1861@att.net.

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By Bjorn Skaptason at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop.

In one of the most iconic images of the Civil War, the last of the Confederate soldiers are surrendering to those of the Union Army. The last words are spoken at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park.

Myths about Lee’s Surrender

A few days ago, the last of the South’s soldiers were surrendering to the Union Army. Lee’s surrender was a turning point in the war, as it marked the end of the Civil War.

Lee had been fighting a losing battle against Grant, who was advancing towards Richmond. Lee knew that he was losing and decided to surrender.

Lee met with Grant on April 9, 1865, and the terms of the surrender were agreed upon.

The most famous myth about Lee’s surrender is that he asked Grant not to kill the soldiers. This is not true. Lee did ask Grant to let the soldiers go home, but Grant did not give in to this demand.

Another myth is that Lee said “I am yours.” This is not true. Lee said “I am yours to do with as you see fit.”

Lee was captured and went to prison, while Grant was hailed as a hero. This is not true. Grant had to leave the war due to a stroke, and his victory was not as significant as Lee’s surrender.

Lee was a great leader, and his surrender marked the end of the Civil War. The myths about Lee’s surrender are not true, and they are important to understand in order to get a proper understanding of the war.

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Call by Monday Nov. 9

The Battles of Appomattox
We Came To Fight. A History of the 5th NY Veteran Vol. Inf., Durand’s Zouaves, and The Life of General Ely S. Parker. Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXX, Number 3
Chicago, Illinois
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Call by Monday Nov. 9

Patton, a M.A. in Civil War History from Virginia Tech. From 1986 to 1993, Patrick worked as a seasonal history interpreter at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. Since 2002, he has been the historian at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park. In 1993, he wrote Thirty Myths About Lee’s Surrender, which is currently in its twentieth printing. Patrick has written, edited, or contributed to more than twenty Civil War titles including More Myths About Lee’s Surrender.

For more information, contact the editor at bsa1861@att.net or (630) 297-8046.