Upcoming Civil War Events
March 3rd, Lake County CWRT: Pam Gonzalez on "Children of the Civil War"
March 3rd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Marty Cain on "Mary Custis Lee"
March 5th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Railroad Defense During the Atlanta Campaign"
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March 11th, Milwaukee CWRT: Eric Jacobson on "The Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin"
March 13th, Joliet Library Author's Fair: Bob Girardi will be there 11-3.
March 16th, "Clearance sale" at Hooked on History bookseller in Mt. Prospect, Phone (847) 255-0854 for details.
March 18th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Rob Girardi on "What Generals Thought of Each Other". Meet at the Country House Restaurant in Alsip.
March 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: Ray Glick on "Civil War Horses and Mules"
March 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Bob Keuna on "The 100th Illinois"
March 27th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Professor Betty Eatmon's presentation on "Mother Mary Ann Bickerdyke"

CWRT Executive Committee Meeting
At the CWRT Executive Committee's Winter Meeting, it was decided to raise the price of our monthly dinner to $45 and parking to $12, effective the 2010-2011 year. This change was (reluctantly) agreed upon, due to a hike in prices charged the CWRT.

Noted historian Art Bergeron passed away February 9th. Art wrote numerous books on the Civil War, including Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units and Confederate Mibile. A good friend, Art had recently worked at Pamplin Park and the U.S. Army Military History Center.

Historians Jack Waugh, Dennis Frye and Jim Ogden will be hosting a Civil War symposium April 29-May 3, aboard the Steamboat House Restaurant in Alsip.

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

March 12: Eric Jacobson, "The Battle of Franklin"
April 9: David O. Stewart, "The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson"
May 14: William F. Freeling, "The Strange, Difficult Triumph of Southern Secession"
June 11: John V. Quarstein, "Battle of the Ironclads"

689th REGULAR MEETING
Eric Jacobson on "The Battles of Spring Hill and Franklin"
Friday, March 12
Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
$40 - Members/Non-members

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$40 - Members/Non-members

Eric Jacobson, University of Tennessee, will focus on the much maligned Battle of Spring Hill with his wife and two children.

The Kankakee Valley CWRT Symposium, March 20th, will feature talks by our own Bruce Allardice (on "Baseball in the Civil War") and Robert L. Girardi (on "Generals Impressions of the Civil War"). Also presenting will be David Hinze and Steven A. Cole. For more information, phone (815) 939-1041 or email sharonschumacher@aol.com.

On Monday March 8th Jon Sebastian will be presenting a paper on Democratic Party support in Illinois during the Civil War, at the Illinois State Historical Society Annual Symposium.

Larry Hewitt will be speaking on "Slaughtered Heroes: Desereters Who Didn't" to the Louisville, KY, CWRT on March 13th, at the U. of Alabama on April 3rd, and at the Deep Delta Symposium on June 9th.

Call by Monday March 8

Eric Jacobson
The Civil War Round Table
Founded December 3, 1940
Volume LXX, Number 7
Chicago, Illinois
March, 2010

John Bell Hood, and on the actions of the Federal army, often overlooked in this campaign due to the tragedy that befell the Confederate army.

Eric Jacobson has been studying the Civil War, specifically the battles of Spring Hill and Franklin, for nearly 25 years. A Minnesota native, he is the Associate Director and Historian at Historic Carnton Plantation in Franklin, Tennessee. His first book, For Cause and For Country: A Study of The Affair at Spring Hill & The Battle of Franklin (2006), has been described as "a magnificent addition to Civil War histories", Eric's latest book, The McGavock Cemetery (2007), focuses on the McGavock family of Carnton and their selfless role in the burial of the Franklin battlefield dead. He lives in Spring Hill with his wife and two children.
Battlefield Preservation
By Brian Seiter

CWPT Is Raising Funds For Parcel Within Gettysburg Park Boundary

GETTYSBURG, PA—For less than $100,000, the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) can help acquire what spokesman Jim Campi called, “the final piece to restore the landscape on Emmitsburg Road” at Gettysburg Battlefield.

CWPT is raising funds to supplement $300,000 that the National Park Service has on hand to buy the last 1.9 acres of the Phillip Snyder Farm. Gettysburg Battlefield National Military Park spokesman Katie Lawhon said the parcel, on which two modern brick houses sit, is on Emmittsburg Road where it meets West Confederate Avenue.

The historic Snyder farmhouse across the road is part of the park. According to a CWPT press release, the landowners expressed a desire to sell the late last year, but the property was appraised well beyond the park’s ability to pay. CWPT acted quickly to protect the tract from further development and put it under contract.

Lawhon said the small parcel was listed as high priority for acquisition in the park’s 1993 land protection plan. She says the park boundary includes 5990.30 acres, on which 540.37 acres inside the boundary, including this Snyder tract, are unprotected. In park parlance such tracts are referred to as inside land. After the closing, CWPT will have the parcel inside the park.

Founded December 5, 1940
1039 Hinwood
Darien, Illinois 60561
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, 1039 Hinwood
Darien, Illinois 60561, or contact bsa1861@att.net.

Foundations President Quits
GETTYSBURG, PA—Rear Admiral Richard A. Buchanan (Ret.), who became president of the Gettysburg Foundation on October 19th, resigned on January 26th.

Buchanan started the job the same week that Superintendent John A. Latschar’s tenure started unraveling. Latschar was forced to resign and on October 26th started a new assignment.

Latschar had been in line for the Foundation presidency in late 2008, but he withdrew his name in January 2009 in the Civil War Round Table, January 2009 when the Proclamation was important – not the election when the Proclamation was destined to destroy slavery in the southern states, but giving the Union a reasonable chance for military success.

Lincoln wanted the slaves for moral reasons and developed a constitutional theory empowering him to do so. He couched his actions in military necessity, because there was a fair prospect of winning the war. Framing his power as inherent in the constitution, he utilized the “power invested in the Commander in Chief,” to free only slaves in insurrectionary areas. The timing of the Proclamation was important – before the 1862 mid-term elections and after the Battle of Antietam, where Lee’s invasion came to an end. This was due to the “incidents of war” could not win the war, but justified it as necessary to protect the Union. He declared SLavery to be a state, but gave the Union a reasonable chance for military success.

Public opinion in 1862 was moving towards emancipation. Lincoln warned border representatives that the “occurrence of war” would not be avoided, that the “trick of war” would destroy their state. After the battle, Phillip Snyder, who had military, financial and nonprofit experience, was considered General Fremont’s 1861 proclamation unconstitutional. While General Hunter freed slaves in the eastern areas, Lincoln recognized the order, but claimed the president, not a major general, would determine the extent of executive power. Eventually, General Hunter’s order was reversed and the “contraband theory” of emancipation when he refused to release slaves who crossed Union lines. If insurrection made slaves contraband, taking them would be no different than confiscating guns from their rebellious masters.

Lincoln was keenly aware of the need to keep the border states, especially Kentucky, which had the largest white population of any slave-holding state, in the fold. Early Union setbacks were an obstacle to this, but victories in early 1862 not only gave the Union a reasonable chance for military success.

On Lincoln’s Birthday, Professor Paul Finkelman addressed the 68th meeting of the Civil War Roundtable on the subject of “Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation.” Many historians consider the Emancipation a pedantic document, and Lincoln has been criticized for vacillating before issuing the Proclamation. When finally delivered, the Proclamation freed “slaves of the rebellious states” and also his long-held personal wish to save something so important.” Thus Lincoln acknowledged the importance of military success in securing the border states and a major victory.

On February 1, 1863, the Proclamation was finally delivered, the Proclamation as the “logical fruit of military victory.”

Richard Hofstadter wrote that the Emancipation Proclamation had “all the moral grandeur of a bill of lading.” The professor agreed, but concluded “that true facts do not necessarily lead to correct interpretations.”

This bill of lading delivered four million people to freedom, achieving Lincoln’s wish that “all men everywhere could be free.”

Ed Bears Award

The battlefield preservation committee is accepting donations for the annual Edwin C. Bearss battlefield preservation fund where Ed chooses the battlefields he wants the money to go to on this year’s tour. Members can send donations to: Brian Seiter, 9812 S. California Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805 or can bring the check to Round Table meetings in March and April. Donors will be acknowledged in the newsletter.
On Lincoln’s Birthday, Professor Paul Finkelman addressed the 688th meeting of the Civil War Roundtable on the subject of “Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation.” Many historians consider the Emancipation a pedagogical document, and Lincoln has been criticized for vacillating before issuing the Proclamation. When finally declared, the Proclamation failed to “incite the war” as Lincoln had intended, but it changed public opinion. Consequently, Finkelman explained, the Proclamation was not a failure but a success because it changed public opinion. The Proclamation was perceived as the “friction” of war destined to destroy slavery in the end. Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia in March 1862, and, as a result of the Proclamation, the border states were secure and an end was in sight.

Lincoln’s constitutional philosophy evolved during the war. He considered General Fremont’s 1861 proclamation unconstitutional. When General Hunter freed slaves in the eastern states, Lincoln considered the order, but claimed the president, not the commander in chief, had the power to free slaves. He supported Congress’s power to limit slavery in areas within its jurisdiction. Although “naturally anti-slavery,” Lincoln was constitutionally constrained.

Lincoln’s personal views were clear: he did not emancipate slaves and risk losing the war. When he refused to release slaves, he supported the war effort, but claimed the president, not the commander in chief, had the power to free slaves. He supported Congress’s power to limit slavery in areas within its jurisdiction. Although “naturally anti-slavery,” Lincoln was constitutionally constrained.

Lincoln wanted to free the slaves for moral reasons and developed a constitutional theory empowering him to act. He could achieve his actions in military necessity, because this would gain greater support in the north. The “friction of war” was a necessary evil. Public opinion in 1862 was moving towards emancipation. Lincoln warned border representatives that the “incident of war” could not be avoided, that the “friction” of war was destined to destroy slavery in the end. Congress abolished slavery in the District of Columbia in March 1862, and, as a result of the Proclamation, the border states were secure and an end was in sight.

February Meeting
By Mark Matranga

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Bjorn Skaptason at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be noon, March 6th, with Michael Peman talking about his new book, Pursuit of Unity and Julie Stern on Mary Custis Lee’s Civil War Epic. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.ilnolincbookshop.com.

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