Upcoming Civil War Events
Lake County CWRT: No meetings for June/July
June 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Annual dinner
June 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual banquet, featuring Jim Oates speaking on “The Engineering of Grant’s Victory at Chattanooga”
June 5th, McHenry Co. CWRT: Ed Urban on “McHenry County’s Part in the Civil War”
June 16th, Lincoln-Douglas CWRT in Alpaca: David Eicher on “Dixie Betrayed”
June 17th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bob Girardani on “Railroad Defense in the Atlantic Campaign”
June 18th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Brett Lobella will lead a discussion on “Why South Carolina was the First State to Secede”. Visit www.stephenadouglas.org for more details.
June 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual dinner, featuring Dan Weinberg speaking on “Adventures through Historical Artefacts”
June 19th, South Suburban CWRT: No meetings June/July
July 10th, Lake County CWRT: Tom DeFranco on “Contrabands of Gettysburg”

Douglas Association Luncheon
Noted Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 12, on “The Lincoln-Douglas Presidential Campaign of 1860.” The event will be at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson, at noon. The cost is $40 per person and will be preceded by a ceremony at the Douglas Tomb. For more information visit www.stephenadouglas.org.

Website Address Change
We’ve changed the address of our website from thecivildrum.org to www.civilwar.com.

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

Reminders
Bjorn Skaptason at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be 3 p.m., June 12th, with Harold Holzer talking about his new book, The Lincoln Assassination, and Ronald White talking on A. Lincoln: A Biography. On June 16th the inimitable Ed Bearss will discuss his new book, Reeding Tide, and on July 13th Mark Lasche will tell the story of the American Civil War as it is told through the lens of the Union Army. For more information on these and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alilincolnbookshop.com.

Upcoming Civil War Events cont.
August 2nd, Lakeside Men’s Breakfast Club in Highland Park: Jerry Schar on “Civil War submarines”
August 3rd, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Ed Bearss will be featured in the Museum’s “Spirit of Freedom” series. See the attached brochure.

Grapeshot
60 plus 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 Arde at hal2290@metronet.com or phone him at (773) 744-6783.
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.

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The Military History Education Group is holding its 12th annual “Summer Conference” Saturday, June 19th, at Yoder’s Kitchen Banquet Facility in Arthur, IL. Speakers include David Powell on “The Chickamauga Campaign”, Chris Kolakowski, Clay Moutncastle, and James A. Goecker. Form more information call (217) 578-2262. Tickets are $50 in advance.

Bruce Allardice will speak on “Conscription and the Civil War” to the Knoxville (TN) CWRT on June 8th.

John V. Quarstein on “Battle of the Ironclads”

The first battle between armored vessels raged at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on March 8 and 9, 1862. Often called the Monitor-Merrimack engagement, it is perhaps the most significant naval event of the entire Civil War.

While the British and French navies had recently built their own, ocean-going, ironclad warships, Hampton Roads marked the first time these modern-style warships had engaged each other in combat. The Battle of the Ironclads is indeed a story of technology; however, it is also a saga of uncommon valor and leadership epitomized by Franklin Buchanan, George Morris, Samuel Greene, and John Taylor Wood.

Rotating armored gun turrets, forced air ventilation systems; underwater rams—these were just a few of the features of these vessels that were soon copied by navies around the world over. The brilliant innovations of John Mercer Brooke (designer of the Monitor-Merrimack) and the farsighted inventions of John Ericsson (designer of the Ironclads) made this showdown in Hampton Roads a death knell for wooden sailing ships. The Battle of the Ironclads is indeed an epic tale that tells how steam-powered iron vessels not only influenced the Civil War, but more importantly, how the two ironclads echoed the dawn of modern navies.

John V. Quarstein is an award-winning preservationist, author, and historian. He presently serves as Historian for the City of Hampton. Quarstein previously served 30 years (1978-2008) as the Director of the Virginia War Museum, during which time he helped to preserve important Civil War sites such as Lee Hall Mansion and Lee’s Mill Battlefield, as well as serving as Historian for the U.S.S. Monitor Center Project.

Quarstein is the author of 10 books, including Fort Monroe: The Key to the South, CSS Virginia: Mistress of Hampton Roads, and A History of Ironclads. He has written and narrated five PBS documentaries such as “Battle of Ironclads” and “1862 Peninsula Campaign.”

An avid decoy collector and duck hunter, John lives at his family’s Eastern Shore farm and on historic Fort Monroe, Virginia.
Battlefield Preservation By Brian Seiter

Judge: NPS Didn't Follow Law On Cyclorama Center Decision. Gettysburg, Pa. — The March 31 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan that the National Park Service (NPS) didn't follow federal environmental regulations when it decided to demolish the Cyclorama Center isn't necessarily the end of the matter. Gettysburg National Military Park spokesman Katie Lawson said the NPS is still considering the court's ruling, and in the meantime, Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP), in favor of rehabilitating the historic landscapes of the park, has appealed the decision to the federal court of appeals.

Prominent architect Richard Neutra designed the 1862 Cyclorama Center, on which, Dion, who worked on the project, said his group was pleased with the ruling. The building, a large, drum-shaped structure with a large, curtain-wrapped, panoramic painting, was demolished last year. Writing in the December 2001 Civil War News Preservation News column, Dion Neutra pointed out the NPS chose the Cyclorama Center site because it would "facilitate interpretation and appreciation of the importance of this spot on the battlefield to the war." The building was sited in such a way that after seeing the painting visitors could go to the observation terrace and see the same landscape as in the painting. Neutra wrote: "To say that (building) removal would restore this scene to Civil War Times is rank nonsense. No one seriously plans to remove the myriad of other monuments that have sprung up, nor the adjacent highway with its motels in plain view, or the many park roads that allow movement around the area. Neutra recently told The Philadelphia Inquirer his father had a broader vision than commemorating the battle. He wanted the building to commemorate the Gettysburg Address and reconciliation, as Lincoln tried to do in his 1863 speech. That view was rebuffed in a June 27, 2004, Los Angeles Times article quoting then superintendent John A. Latchair saying the park would never embrace his vision. Neutra's view was: "Mr. Neutra had the idea that this would be his monument to Lincoln and freedom and all that stuff." He said, "The problem is, he never listened to his clients, because we did not want a monument, we wanted a functional building. And, as a result, we got neither." The Cyclorama Center was one of 100 modern visitor centers built as part of Mission 66, a 10 year program to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Park Service in 1966. It cost $1 million and opened in 1962 for the Civil War Centennial. The building, a large, drum-shaped mass of concrete that housed the 19th century Cyclorama painting of the battle of Gettysburg, "was their show piece," Devlin Colman told CWN in a 1995 interview. It was Neutra's only federal commission, and his only public building east of the Mississippi. "Neutra considered this building one of the highlights of his career.

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May Meeting By Jackie Wilson

At the 691st meeting of The Chicago Civil War Round Table, held May 14, William W. Freehling PhD, stated that in order to understand the Civil War you must know the reason for it. He stated Lincoln was not the reason. What was more dangerous to the South? Lincoln or Succession? That is the question he answered this evening. Dr. Freehling stated that racism was much more important than slavery ever could be as a reason for the war. Most southerners were not slave holders, but were afraid that the blacks would take over the south if they were freed. After all, the white population was in the minority in some southern states.

He opined that Lincoln was not dangerous to the South as he could not abolish slavery on his own and abolitionists, although popular in the North, were not a threat. The southern states had planned a Southern States Convention in order to determine if secession was something that all the states truly wanted. Virginia, for one, did not want to secede, as the politicians knew that if war came their state would turn into the battlefield and it did eventually become Confederate, not Union, and wait and see attitude. Dr. Freehling stated that about 85% of Southerners were not secessionists, so how did they get the upper hand? South Carolina high jinks, that's how!

The secessionists believed that because each state had ratified the constitution, each state must make its own decision about whether to secede or not, and most states in the majority did not want to secede. No Southern States Convention where all the states could vote yeah or nay. They feared that the non-immediate secessionist majority would rule. South Carolina had been trying to secede since 1832 during the Nullification problem, then President Jackson had isolated the state and prevented it from happening. Now, South Carolina wanted nothing to stand in their way of seceding this time.

South Carolina proved reluctant to secede without the guarantee that Georgia, the leading Southern state, would adopt its action. For Professor Freehling, the turning point came on November 9-10, 1860, during the joint celebration of the completion of the Choochamohi and Savannah Railroad. Francis Bartow, a Georgia state senator and noted orator, was asked to speak during the celebration and he stated that the Confederacy should not secede, but if it did, Georgia would stand by its side. Of course, Barn had no official position to make this promise, but that did not matter to the South Carolina legislature, eager to seize on any excuse to go ahead on its own. Individual state conventions were then scheduled instead of all the inclusive convention originally planned.

After the President Buchanan reinforced Fort Sumter, the government of South Carolina sent telegrams to all the southern states to suggest that the states should seize all the Federal forts and armaments and once the seizes took place the convention members (especially in Virginia) felt that they had to support the boys already in the trenches. Thanks to President Buchanan's actions, Lincoln's actions when he took office would not have made much difference. The seizes of the federal forts in southern territory had already taken place even before the succession conventions took place. Professor Freehling noted that Lincoln had planned to reinforce Fort Pickens in Florida and give up Fort Sumter. Unfortunately, someone did not listen to orders.

Lincoln was disliked by the south because he was not a pro-atocritic gentleman, rather he was considered a country bumpkin. But that was no reason to go to war, just wait four years and another election would remove the problem. However, because of the precipitous actions of President Buchanan and a few hot headed Southerians, war became inevitable.

Freehling provided a light-hearted but educational few moments when he portrayed Henry Wise, Governor of Virginia and CWRT President Tom Trescott portrayed John B. Baldwin as they read the words of an actual secession debate between the two. Wise represented the secessionist point of view, while Baldwin was a Unionist. Dr. Freehling presented a talk that was full of enthusiasm for his subject and left some of us wondering what really did cause the Civil War.

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal2292@ameritech.net. 2006-05-14
Judge: NPS Didn’t Follow Law On Cyclorama Center Decision.

Gettysburg, Pa. — The March 31 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan that the National Park Service (NPS) didn’t follow federal environmental regulations when it decided to demolish the Cyclorama Center at Gettysburg National Military Park (NMP), in favor of rehabilitating the historic landscapes of the battle line of the Union Army on Cemetery Ridge.

Prominent architect Richard Neutra designed the 1962 Cyclorama Center. His son, Dion, who worked on the project, recently told The Philadelphia Inquirer his father had a broader vision than comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, or NHPA, and he pointed out the NPS chose the Cyclorama Center site because it would “facilitate interpretation and appreciation of the importance of this spot on the battlefield the war.”

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He opined that Lincoln was not dangerous to the South as he could not abolish slavery on his own and abolitionists, although fewer in the majority. The southern states had planned a Southern States Convention in order to determine if secession was something that all the states truly wanted. Virginia, for one, did not want to secede, as the politicians knew that if war came their state would turn into the battlefield and it eventually became clear to Lincoln he was unable to stop the South and he resigned. Dr. Freehling stated that about 85% of Southerners were not secessionists, so how did they get the upper hand? South Carolina high jinks, that’s how!

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June 12th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Annual dinner
June 13th, Kenosha CWRT: Ed Urban on "McHenry County’s Part in the Civil War"
June 13-14, Kenosha Civil War Museum: "A Salute to Freedom, 2nd Anniversary of the Civil War Museum. Features Bjorn Skagstuen discussing "Wisconsin & Ships" and Professor Ted Kamannski on "Chicago in the Civil War"
June 13th, Border's Books in Crystal Lake: Suny Barile will speak on "Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle and a Yankee General"
June 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT in Alpaca: David Erickson on "Dixie Betrayed"
June 17th, Milwaukee CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Railroad Defense in the Atlantic Campaign"
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