**Grapeshot**

The Chicago History Museum is sponsoring several events to coincide with the Sesquicentennial, including the showing of the film "Love & Valor" April 1st. Phone 312-642-4600 or visit www.chicagohistory.org for more on these events.

**Upcoming Civil War Events**

April 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Marra Vincent on "Children's Clothing During the Civil War"

April 4th, Lake County CWRT: Dave Noe on "The Great Camel Experiment"

April 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Richard McMurry on "A Georgian Looks at Sherman"


April 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Ed LeCron on "Copperheads in Illinois"

April 14th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Lance Herdegen on "The Firing on Fort Sumter"

April 19th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Conscription and the Civil War"

April 8th, Du Page County Fairgrounds: National Civil War Collectors Show

April 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Dr. Mark Lause on "Missing Dimensions of the Civil War"

April 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Don White hosts a discussion on "Lincoln Calls on Grant"

**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.

April 8: Richard McMurry, "A Georgian Looks at Sherman"

May 13: Tom Schott, "Alexander Stephens and Jefferson Davis: A Marriage Made in Hell"

June 10: Peter Carmichael, "Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilation"


Nov. 11: Gail Stephens on "Early's 1864 Invasion of Maryland"

**Reminder**

The Illinois State History Symposium will be held April 14-16 at Carbondale. Its focus will be on the Civil War, and at the symposium copies of the Sesquicentennial Issue of the Journal of Illinois History will be available. This special issue features articles by Bob Girardi, Bruce Allardice, Kurt Carlson, Bjorn Skaptsasan, Roger Bohn and others.

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.

**Future Meetings**

April 8th, 11th, 18th, 25th, and May 9th and 16th: Northern Illinois CWRT: Dave Bohn and others.


April 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Ed LeCron on "Copperheads in Illinois"

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April 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Don White hosts a discussion on "Lincoln Calls on Grant"


**Election Notice**

At the May meeting, the CWRT will elect officers for the coming (2011-2012) year. The nominating committee’s slate of proposed officers will be published in next month’s newsletter. Nominations from the floor can be made at the meeting by any CWRT member.

Make your reservation for the CWRT’s Annual Dinner May 14th by calling 630-460-1865, or emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, with the names of your party and choice of entrees.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. on the day of the 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 $10 per person. Parking at the Holiday Inn is $12 with a validated parking sticker.

**The Civil War Round Table**

Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War

**Volume LXXI, Number 8 Chicago, Illinois April 2011**

**SCHMELFELPENNEIG BOUTIQUE**

Sixty 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 Andell at hal2290@comcast.net 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.

**Future Meetings**

April 8, Richard McMurry, “A Georgian Looks at Sherman”

May 13, Tom Schott, "Alexander Stephens and Jefferson Davis: A Marriage Made in Hell"

June 10, Peter Carmichael, “Robert E. Lee and the Strategy of Annihilation”

Sept. 9, Marshall Krocklick, Topic TBA

Oct. 14, Open

Nov. 11, Gail Stephens on “Early’s 1864 Invasion of Maryland”

**Holiday Inn Mart Plaza**

350 North Orleans Street

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

$45 – Members/Non-members

Caterer: Chicken Filletland, Hatched Halibut, Vegetarian plate or Fruit Plate

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Make your reservation for Monday, Apr. 4th by calling 630-460-1865, or emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, with the names of your party and choice of entrees.

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**Richard McMurry**

on “A Georgian Looks at Sherman” by BRUCE ALLARDICE

“War is Hell.” “War is cruelty, and you cannot refine it.” “I can make this march, and I will make Georgia howl!” These and other colorful quotes made the outspoken William T. Sherman one of the most sought-after speakers of the 19th Century. They also contributed to Sherman’s image among southerners as a remorseless, ruthless war leader, who wrecked the state of Georgia. Words such as “anorn” and “pillaging” are often thrown around when talking about Sherman, especially by Georgians. As one Georgia historian later wrote of the March to the Sea, “The limits of this chapter do not permit an adequate description of the ruin wrought throughout Georgia. The imagination, acting upon the basis of the outline here given, cannot exceed the reality.”

On April 8th Richard McMurry will present his perspective of General Sherman. As a long-time Georgia resident, McMurry grew up hearing stories of this chapter of our history. His Ph.D. in history from Emory University under Bell Wiley. He is the author of numerous books and articles on the Civil War, including Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History; John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence; The Fourth Battle of Winchester; Toward a New Civil War Paradigm; and Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy. Dr. McMurry has spoken several times to our Round Table.

**Richard McMurry**

on “A Georgian Looks at Sherman”

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Battlefield Preservation

Gettysburg Land Purchase Updates: Preservation Groups Score Successes

Gettysburg Country Club

Gettysburg, PA—The Conservation Fund with help from the Civil War Trust recently purchased 8 acres of former Gettysburg Country Club land for transfer to the National Park Service.

The developer released information to the Gettysburg Times before the preservation groups and Gettysburg National Military Park were prepared to make a public announcement.

Cumberland Club Services LLC developer Martin K. P. Hill told the newspaper that he will keep 15 acres with the clubhouse, pool, tennis courts and banquet facilities and market those services. There was no mention of the remaining 10 acres of the 120-acre club property.

The country club property, where Confederate and Iron Brigade forces fought on the battle’s first day, is within the park boundary on the south side of Chambersburg Road, Route 30, west of Willoughby Run. Zoning would allow hundreds of houses to be built there.

The Civil War Trust donated $25,000 from revolving funds towards the acquisition. The total purchase price was $450,000. Gettysburg National Military Park has $455,000 in acquisition funds and the Trust will make up the difference.

This parcel includes the Josiah Benner Farm, the Josiah Benner house, on July 1, 1863, as the battlefield widened from west to east, Union troops under General Francis C. Barlow occupied the knoll just across Rock Creek from the Benner Farm. In the vicinity of the house, four companies of the 17th Connecticut were fired on by the advance forces of Jubal Early’s Confederate division. Elements of Confederate brigades under John B. Gordon and Harry Hays advanced over the Benner Farm to attack the Union forces on Culp’s Knoll.

After the battle, the Benner farm became a hospital, with General Barlow being one of the patients. Scores of Union and Confederate dead were buried on the farm.

Lawhon said the park will work to remove the non-historic buildings and trees this year.

From the April 2011 Civil War News

Ed Bears Award

Please support our goal to raise $2,000 dollars for the 10th Annual Ed Bears Preservation Award. Every year on our website we select two battlefields that the roundtable sends a $1,000 check in his name for battlefield preservation. Please help us reach this goal by April 25th.

The Civil War Roundtable was feted at its 699th meeting by Susan Boardman’s excellent presentation on the Gettysburg Cyclorama. The cyclorama, a large panoramic painting shown in the round, was initially patented in the late 18th Century, but this ‘art for the masses’ was not introduced to the United States until the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. Rotunda style buildings were built to house these huge canvases after they became standardized (400’ x 500’). Hundreds were painted and burned; but most were not destroyed. The Civil War was the subject of the majority of the cycloramas produced in the United States.

Teams of artists worked together to produce a cyclorama; there were specialists in perspective, landscapes, architecture, vegetation, and uniforms and weapons. Twenty artists worked on the Gettysburg painting. The cyclorama utilized a unique method of display which helped create the illusion of reality in the painting. The cyclorama utilized a unique method of display which helped create the illusion of reality in the painting. The viewer, standing on the viewing platform all contributed to a 3-dimensional effect which immersed the viewer in the scene.

The Chicago Cyclorama closed in 1890 but was refurbished for the Columbian Exposition in 1893. It closed in 1895 and was allegedly destroyed in a fire. Philadelphia’s ‘Gettysburg’ moved to several cities and eventually was cut into pieces and distributed to Veterans’ Posts—some are now in the Park collection. The Boston version transferred to Philadelphia for a year, after which it was stored in warehouses until 1901. Two large pieces were bought by Newark store owner Albert Hahne in 1910 and were brought to Gettysburg for the 50th anniversary of the battle. The painting remained in the Hahne family until 1942 when it was acquired by the NPS. Restoration using infrared technology to locate the original grid lines began in 2006.

The restored Philadelphia painting now resides in the new Visitor Center at Gettysburg where the ‘magnitude of war’ it so realistically portrays is again on display.

To hear the entire talk, there is a recording of the meeting (and every meeting) available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 744-6781 or hal2296@ameritech.net. To view his slide presentations see http://classic.kodakgallery.com/civilwar/main/
By Brian Seiter

Lawn said the east side of the parcel knocks on park land that is already accessible to the public. Last year she said, "If we acquire the land, the National Park Service could potentially do some battlefield rehabilitation work on property and we could provide guided walking tours and programs to the public there."

Josiah Benner Tract

The Civil War Trust is raising an additional $45,000 for the nine-acre Josiah Benner Farm property near Lew's Knoll, another first day action site, making a total of $70,000 needed for Gettysburg land purchases.

The Benner property cost is $450,000. Gettysburg National Military Park has $450,000 in acquisition funds and the Trust will make up the difference.

This parcel includes the Josiah Benner House. On July 1, 1863, as the battlefield widened from west to east, Union troops under General Francis C. Barlow occupied the knoll just across Rock Creek from the Benner Farm. In the vicinity of the house, four companies of the 17th Connecticut were fired on by the advance forces of Jubal Early's Confederate Division. Elements of Confederate brigades under John B. Gordon and Harry Hays advanced over the Benner Farm to assault the Union's Knoll position.

After the battle, the Benner farm became a hospital, with General Barlow being one of the patients. Scores of Union and Confederate dead were buried on the farm.

Lawn said this property also is within park boundaries. "We are working with our extremely supportive partners at the Civil War Trust... to acquire it for preservation and protection for future generation," she said.

To donate and see maps, articles, images and videos about these Gettysburg properties visit the Trust’s Web site at www.civilwar.org/gettysburg2011.

By Mark Matranga

The Civil War Roundtable was feted at its 699th meeting by Susan Boardman’s excellent presentation on the Gettysburg Cyclorama. The cyclorama, a large panoramic painting showing in the round, was initially patented in the late 18th Century, but this ‘art for the masses’ was not introduced to the United States until the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition. Rotunda style buildings were built to house these huge canvases after they became standardized (480’ x 30’). Hundreds were painted and destroyed, but more were created or destroyed. The Civil War was the subject of the majority of the cycloramas produced in the United States.

Teams of artists worked together to produce a cyclorama: there were specialists in perspective, landscapes, architecture, vegetation, and uniforms and weapons. Twenty artists worked on the Gettysburg painting. The cyclorama utilized a unique method of display which helped create the illusion of reality in the painting. The cyclorama was begun in 1872 by Newark store owner Albert Ahne in 1891 and was brought to Gettysburg in 1901. Two large pieces were bought by Newark store owner Albert Ahne in 1910. The cyclorama was closed in 1890 but was refurbished for the Columbus Exposition in 1893. It closed in 1895 and was allegedly destroyed in a fire. Philadelphia's "Gettysburg" moved to several cities and eventually was cut into pieces and distributed to Veterans' Posts – some are now in the Park collection. The Boston version transferred to Philadelphia for a year, after which it stood unused until 1901. The restored Philioppeaux painting now resides in the new Visitor Center at Gettysburg where the "panoramic of war" it so realistically portrays is on display.

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On Sunday, May 15th, the Civil War Museum in Kenosha will host a free lecture and book signing with nationally renowned Lincoln scholar Harold Holzer. More details to come.
Upcoming Civil War Events

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April 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Richard McMurry on "A Georgian Looks at Sherman"

April 9th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Presentation on "Illinois Regiments" by Tom Arluskas. Visit www.thecivilwar­museum.org for more details. The Lake County Discovery Museum is hosting an exhibit on "Civil War High Tech," and the Waukegan Historical Society Museum has a Civil War exhibit.

Bob Girardi will speak to the Wilmette Historical Society April 17th on "Illinois Fights the Civil War." On April 19th he’ll address the Sarasota, FL CWRT on "General Impressions of 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 editor@chicagocwrt.org or (630) 297-8046.