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Grapeshot

Grapes are now available at the Schimmel Fenning Boutique.

Schimmel Fenning

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 Ardell at hal2290@ameritech.net or phone him at (630) 510-4941.

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.

Upcoming Civil War Events


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The Civil War Trust recently sent a letter from Jim Lighthizer thanking all the great folks at the Chicago CWRT for the $1,000 check from us. The battlefield preservation committee selected Resaca with a nearly $67,000 to $1.00 match of our donation dollars to maximize our contributions to the Resaca battlefield. The battlefield preservation committee selected Resaca with a nearly $67,000 to $1.00 match of our donation dollars to maximize our contributions to the Resaca battlefield. Thanks to your recent gift of $67.00 to $1.00 match of our donation dollars to maximize our contributions to the Resaca battlefield.

Battlefield Preservation
By Brian Seiter

The preservation of the Resaca battlefield began on September 24, 2002 when the state of Georgia acquired the corridor for the battlefield park. On October 15, 2008 ground was broken on the Resaca battlefield. The Friends of Resaca battlefield is dedicated to the historic integrity and educational use of the battlefield sites where the battle of Resaca took place in May 1864. The goal is to protect and preserve a 500 acre state park at Resaca. The Friends of Resaca battlefield is www.resacabattlefield.org.

The Civil War Round Table

Founded December 5, 1940
1039 Hinwood
Darien, Illinois 60761
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.civilwarrt.org

The only requirement for membership in The Civil War Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 1039 Hinwood, Darien, Illinois 60761, or editor@chicagowrt.org.

565 acres of battlefield land that Trust members like you have already saved at Resaca!

Your gift also helps to save 644 acres at the Dallas battlefield. The battle at Dallas on May 28, 1864, as well as associated fighting at New Hope Church and Pickett’s Mill, proved a savage and bloody obstacle to Sherman’s advance on Atlanta. These acres are essential core battlefield land that was threatened by modern development.

The combined 537.9 acres of endangered Georgian battlefield land are worth an astounding $3,450,000. Working with key partners like the Trust for Public Land, the Georgia Civil War Association and Paulding County, we were able to save this land for less than $52,000 from the Civil War Trust—effectively multiplying every $1 of your donation into $67! You clearly know a good deal when you see one! You have my deepest and most heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,
Jim Lighthizer
President Civil War Trust

At the 700th meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table, on April 8, 2011, Richard McMurray gave an engaging talk on “the most hated man in Atlanta.”

According to McMurray, any school child from 1870 to 1970 would be taught that there are 21 despicable men in Atlanta. Nine belonged to the Birmingham Barons and another nine belonged to the Nashville Ball. The twentieth was football coach Wally Butts who created a scandal in conjunction with his fellow coach from Alabama, Bear Bryant. Notice all 19 of these men are from the field of sports. The last two however are Civil War Generals– John Bell Hood and Sherman. Hood is hated because he lost Atlanta to Sherman and Sherman for taking it and then his March to the Sea.

Thus began McMurray’s description of Sherman’s reputation and the reality of his actions. Georgians believed that Sherman was responsible for every fire that occurred even if it was 200 miles away from his route through the state. He was blamed for all fires between 1733 and 1946 – quite a feat since he died in 1891! Every house that burned but had chimneys left standing were called Sherman chimneys. That is 213 years as a fire starter!

What was Sherman really like as a general? Sherman’s adult life before the war found him in the South and California and thus most of his political convictions agreed with the southern point of view with one exception: he did not believe in succession. His 13 years in the army did not teach him to be a good combat general, but it did teach him to be a great mind when it came to logistics, supplies and looking at the big picture. However, he was a grand strategist.

When Sherman reached Atlanta it was already in flames thanks to the Confederates. He did not destroy Macon, Augusta or Albany. He states that if the house was occupied, it probably was not destroyed – unless the owner fired on the Union soldiers. As he marched through Georgia with his army in four columns with 60 miles between each side thus covering only 12% of the state. McMurry questions the reports that he burned everything in the state by asking the question: Where did all those antebellum mansions come from if he destroyed every house in the state? One interesting point is that the white pro-secession population of Georgia was in the minority and the slaves welcomed Sherman as their savior. However, he attempted to turn them away and did not encourage them to follow his army. In fact, he would destroy a bridge so that the slaves could not follow.

In conclusion, McMurray opines that it was Joe Johnston that lost Atlanta based on a horrible campaign, not Hood who had good plans to defend the city but the execution was poor and his physical condition did not help. Hood looks good next to Braxton Bragg who lacked the moral courage to take risks. Neither Sherman nor Hood really belong on the Georgian most hated list.

To hear the entire talk, there is a recording of the meeting (and every meeting) available from Hal Ar dell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (737) 774-6781 or hal229@ameri-tech.net. To view his slide presentations see http://classic.kodakgal- lery.com/civilwarrt/main.

New Publications
Paula Walker and Rob Girardi have finished their biography of General Governor K. Warren. Bruce Allardice and Wayne Wolf have their book on the GHM’s “Charles F. Gunther” at a publisher for review. And the latest issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society features Civil War articles by Kurt Carlson, Bjorn Skaptason, Roger Bohn, Rob Girardi and Bruce Allardice.

April Meeting
By Jackie Wilson

Douglas Assn. Luncheon
The Stephen A. Douglas Association will hold its annual luncheon Saturday, June 4. At 10 a.m. a memorial ceremony will be held at the Douglas Tomb, followed by reception at the Palmer House and (at noon) luncheon. This year’s keynote speaker is Robert Dick Doug las III, the great-grandson of the famed senator. The cost is $40 apiece. For reservations or more information, email Joe Wisehart at jwisehart@sbcglobal.net
The Civil War Trust recently sent a letter from Jim Lighthizer thanking all the great folks at the Chicago CWRT for the $1,000 check from us.

The battlefield preservation committee selected Resaca with nearly $67,000 to $1.00 match of our donation dollars to maximize our contributions to the Georgia and Dallas battlefields in Georgia. Railroad workers named Resaca, Georgia in the 1850s for the Mexican War battle of Resaca de la Palma. This village on the north bank of where the Western and Atlantic railroad crossed the Oostanaula River was the first major battle of the Atlanta campaign. The President of the Georgia Battlefield Association Charlie Crawford describing the battle of Resaca stated if McPherson could have set aside Resaca the Union army would have been astride the Western and Atlantic Railroad eighteen miles south of Dalton, breaking the Confederate supply line and forcing Johnston’s army to retreat to the east in even more difficult terrain. The battle of Resaca could have been the decisive battle of the Atlanta campaign but the missed opportunity by the Union army resulted in this being the first of many battles of the Atlanta campaign.

The preservation of the Resaca battlefield began on September 24, 2002 when the state of Georgia acquired the corridor for the battlefield park. On October 5, 2008 ground was broke on the Resaca battlefield. The Friends of Resaca battlefield is dedicated to the historic integrity and educational use of the battlefield sites where the battle of Resaca took place in May 1864. The goal is to protect and preserve 500 acre state park at Resaca. The Friends of Resaca battlefield is www.Resacabattleground.org.

The Friends of Resaca battlefield also works with the Georgia Battlefields Association (georgiabattlefields.org) on Resaca. GBA is a private non profit organization working with other preservation groups on Civil War sites in Georgia that are being damaged and adversely affected by development. Go to this site for selected scenes from the Resaca battlefield historic site.

Another group working for the preservation of Resaca is the Trust for Public Land (TPL). The TPL preservation model is to buy land that faces an immediate threat and subsequently sell it to a preservation-minded buyer as quickly as possible. To learn more about the preservation efforts at Resaca and Dallas please go to www.civilwar.org/Resaca1 for information about that site and www.civilwar.org/Dallas1 to learn more about the preservation efforts there. Thank you to all CWRT of Chicago members for your continued support of battlefield preservation.

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Letter from Civil War Trust to CWRT of Chicago

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping save land in the state of Georgia!

Thanks to your recent gift of $1,000 to the Civil War Trust we are well on our way to reaching our $51,585 goal to save land at the Resaca and Dallas battlefields in Georgia. These 473.5 core acres of land at Resaca are on the key northern part of the battlefield, where much of the heaviest fighting occurred on May 14 and 15, 1864 in the opening weeks of William Tecumseh Sherman’s “Atlanta Campaign.” Best of all, these acres will be added to the battlefield preservation.

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According to McMurray, any school child from 1870 to 1970 would be taught that there are 21 despicable men in Atlanta. Nine belonged to the Birmingham Barons and another eleven belonged to the Nashville Ball. The nineteenth was football coach Wolly Butts who created a scandal in conjunction with his fellow coach from Alabama, Bear Bryant. Notice all 19 of these men are from the field of sports. The last two however are Civil War Generals – John Bell Hood and Sherman. Hood is hated because he lost Atlanta to Sherman and Sherman for taking it and then his March to the Sea.

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Call by Monday May 9

Note: The address is at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street.

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If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations are made, please call the number before 5 p.m. that day.

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 $3.22 with a validated parking sticker.

701st REGULAR MEETING

Tom Schott on “Alexander Stephens and Jefferson Davis: A Marriage Made in Hell”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

$45 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Chicken Casserole, Baked Orange Brandy, Vegetarian Slaw or Fruit Tart

Bulletin Board

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXXI, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May 2011

Call for Talk Nominations: Hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (630) 734-6789. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (630) 734-6789.

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