Starting in November and continuing through next March, past president Mary Abroe will moderate a five-part reading and discussion series called “Let’s Talk About In Making Sense of the American Civil War” at the Wilmette Public Library. This series starts on Wednesday, November 9 at 7 p.m., with a discussion of the novel March, by Geraldine Brooks. For more information, contact the library’s Web site at www.wilmettelibrary.info/civilwar Call 847-256-6930 or email wag@wilmettelibrary.info in order to register.

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SCHIMMELFENNIG 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 Ardell at hal229@metrect.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.

Upcoming Civil War Events

Dec. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT: Bob Miller on “The Original Fighting Irish: Notre Dame Chaplains”

Dec. 4th, McHenry County CWRT: Holiday Party, with Valerie Guigula as “Mary Todd Lincoln”

Dec. 6th, Lake County CWRT: Holiday Party

Dec. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Art Schumacher, topic TBA

Dec. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bud Robertson on “The Untold Civil War”

Dec. 9th, Kenosha CWRT: “Exploring the Lady Elgin”

Dec. 10th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Exploring the Lady Elgin”

Dec. 13th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bud Robertson on “The Untold Civil War”

Dec. 19th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Exploring the Lady Elgin”

Dec. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Show and Tell Night

Dec. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Show and Tell Night

Reminders

2012 Tour - Antietam

March 3-6, 2012

2013 Tour - Antietam

Bulletin Board

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.


North & South Magazine is offering a special yearlong subscription (6 issues) for just $99.99 (regular price is $140) for Chicago CWRT members. There will be flyers at the December meeting on this offer. You can also visit www.northandsouthmagazine.com for more details.

Grapeshot

The Civil War Round Table

Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2011

James I. Robertson on “The Untold Civil War”
by BRUCE ALLARDICE

Was Gettysburg a tactical success, or was the outcome determined by a far more mundane factor: access to fresh water? How did the need to spread information about the dead and wounded give rise to the U.S. Postal Service? Did President Lincoln really age so dramatically during the course of the war, or was a rare disease to blame for the shockingly difference in images of him from before and during the war?

On December 9th famed historian James I. “Bud” Robertson will speak on “The Untold Civil War” based on his new book. From overlooked elements, such as the role of weather, health, and high emotions, to the world-changing effects of the rise of female workers, to the many “firsts” including the introduction of standard time, pre-stamped clothing, canned goods, toilets, and Santa Claus, The Untold Civil War reveals new facets of a seemingly well-known slice of American history, just in time to commemorate its 150th anniversary.
Small Group, Large Impact  
(by Tom Van Winkle) A small group in Fredericksburg that has been diligent and quietly working on preserving battlefield sites for 15 years is the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The Trust was formally organized on November 4th, 1996, and consisted of seven local residents who had been witnessing the accelerated destruction of the battlefields and wanted to do something about it. None of the original founding members were professional historians and none were quite sure what they were getting into, but all agreed something needed to be done.

With the aim to aid the National Park Service in acquiring battlefield land that either was not in the boundary set by Congress or had sale prices much higher than the Park Service was allowed to pay, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust began its mission.

“To stand on a Civil War battlefield is to stand on holy ground, for these fields have been consecrated by their blood and by their bravery, and we believe quite strongly that to deface such fields have been consecrated by their blood and by their bravery, and we believe quite strongly that to deface such fields is to stand on holy ground, for these fields have been consecrated by their blood and by their bravery, and we believe quite strongly that to deface such fields are hallowed grounds.

“By preserving the hallowed ground of a Civil War battlefield we assure that these men will not be forgotten and lost to time but will be remembered and honored forever, for who they were, for what they did, and for what they can teach us.”

“Saving Dirt and Grass” is the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust’s tag line and they have accomplished this over and over again. One would assume that with the major success it has had in 15 years and the millions of dollars spent on acquiring endangered battlefields that this once small group has now expanded and has become more complicated and heavily layered.

Well, if you think that I am happy to say you would be incorrect. The board of directors is still an all-volunteer group, although it is slightly larger than seven and does have a professional historian or two. The membership level has risen to over 800 and is still growing.

The group has made one exception to the volunteer policy and hired an executive director out of necessity. He is woefully underpaid for the work he performs, but also has the mission in mind. Even with keeping this small footprint the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust has been called “the most effective regional Civil War land trust in the nation.”

With the Civil War Sesquicentennial upon us we have an opportunity to advocate battlefield preservation to a more interested public. Time is truly running out to preserve these hallowed grounds.

If you think because you are only one, or you may have only a handful of people who want to do something, and figure that’s not enough, think of Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. With just a handful of well-thought and a determination to make a difference, it can be done, it must be done, and now. If we don’t preserve it, we will lose it.

“By preserving the hallowed ground of a Civil War battlefield we don’t just preserve land; we also preserve the memories and the meaning, the sacrifices and the stories, of the men who fought and fell there, men whose bond to cause and comrades and country was so strong that they were willing to die rather than to deny it.” Dr. Mike Stevens.

For information visit www.cvbt.org.

McLawns’ Wedge, Jackson’s Flank Attack and Felham’s Corner.

Some of this land was within NPS boundaries and much was not. In its 15 years the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, with an all-volunteer board of directors, has preserved on its own and in partnerships over 900 acres of battlefields that would otherwise be lost forever.

Dr. Stevens’ words go on to say, “It has been said that ‘poor is the nation which has no heroes, but shameful is the nation which has them and forgets.’ By preserving the hallowed ground of a Civil War battlefield we assure that these men will not be forgotten and lost to time but will be remembered and honored forever, for who they were, for what they did, and for what they can teach us.”

“The Civil War Round Table

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940
1039 Hinwood
Darien, Illinois 60561
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.chicagocwrt.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 60561, or editor@chicagocwrt.org.

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**Battlefield Preservation**

**By Brian Seiter**

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**October—December**

**Coming Civil War Events in the Chicago Area Compiled by Bruce Allardice**

**Oct-Dec.** Waugansee Historical Society: exhibit on "Waugansee and the Civil War"

**Oct-Dec.** Joliet Area Historical Museum: exhibit on "Joliet Remembers the Civil War"


**Jan. 4th, 2012** Kankakee Valley CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Illinois and the Civil War"

**Jan. 4th, 2012** Glen Ellyn Kwanies: Leslie Goddard on "Clara Barton"

**Jan. 6th** Northern Illinois CWRT: Ed Beavers, "Battlefield Medicine"

**Jan. 6th** Homewood Historical Society, at the Homewood Flossmoor Public Library: Bruce Allardice on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals"

**Jan. 7th** Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Nora Titone on "The Booth Brothers"

**Jan. 20th** Salt Creek CWRT: Art Foley on "James Blum"

**Jan. 21st** On Jan. 21st, Midway Village in Rockford will be hosting its Tenth Annual Civil War Symposium. Speakers include Professor Art Burton, Dr. Wayne Wold, Professor Bruce Allardice, and Rev. L. M. McClenain.

**Jan. 7th** Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Lee’s First Invasion: Antietam"

**Mar. 2nd** Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom Cartwright, Topic TBA

**Mar. 4th** Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom Cartwright, Topic TBA

**May 18th** South Suburban CWRT: Larry McClenain on "The Underground Railroad in Illinois"

**May 2nd** Kankakee Valley CWRT: Forum

**May 24th** South Suburban CWRT: Gina Wysocki, "Lost and Found: The Mystery Behind Channahon’s 14 mile Fence"

**June 1st** Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual Banquet, with Craig Symonds as featured speaker. Topic TBA

**June 15th** Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet. Ed Beavers speaking on "Personal Milestones along the Way: 50 Years of Civil War Round Tables"
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Check the Announcements section of the CWRT’s website for additional upcoming events.

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 312-297-8446.