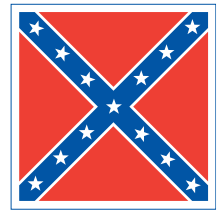


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2011



706th REGULAR MEETING

James I. Robertson

on

“The Untold Civil War”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, December 9

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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: Prime Rib.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

please note

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Dec. 7, by calling 630 460-1865, or emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

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.

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 shocking 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 effect of the rise of female workers, to the many “firsts” including the introduction of standard time, pre-sized 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.



James I. Robertson

A native of Danville, Virginia, James Robertson earned his B.A. from Randolph-Macon College, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Emory University. Professor Robertson taught college history at Virginia Tech until his recent retirement. He is the author or editor of over 20 books; his magisterial biography of Gen. “Stonewall” Jackson was the foundation for the Ted Turner/Warner Bros. mega-movie, “Gods and Generals”. He appears regularly in Civil War programs on the



Arts & Entertainment Network, the History Channel, C-Span, and public television. Robertson’s latest book, The Untold Civil War. Exploring the Human Side of War, was published in October, 2011, by the National Geographic Society.

Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Small Group, Large Impact – (by Tom Van Winkle) A small group in Fredericksburg that has been diligently and quietly working on preserving battlefields for 15 years is the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust.

The Trust was officially formed 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 ground is to dishonor their suffering and their sacrifice.”

These words were spoken by founding member and current Central Virginia Battlefields Trust President Dr. Mike Stevens and they are at the core of the group’s values.

Beginning in 1996 in a joint effort with the now Civil War Trust, the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust saved a portion of the Fredericksburg battlefield known as Willis Hill.

From there the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust began researching and identifying endangered battlefields in Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Wilderness and Spotsylvania Court House, saving battlefields with names such as

McLaws’ Wedge, Jackson’s Flank Attack and Pelham’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.”

“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

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
1039 Hinswood
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 Hinswood, Darien, Illinois 60561, or editor@chicagocwrt.org.

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 wishful thinkers 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 comrade 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.

(from November issue of *Civil War News*)

Coming Civil War Events in the Chicago Area

Compiled by Bruce Allardice

Oct.-Dec.

Waukegan Historical Society: exhibit on "Waukegan and the Civil War"

Oct.-Dec.

Joliet Area Historical Museum: exhibit on "Joliet Remembers the Civil War"

Oct. 2011–March 20, 2012

Kenosha Civil War Museum: Stephen A. Douglas exhibit.

Jan. 4th, 2012

Kankakee Valley CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Illinois and the Civil War"

Jan. 4th, 2012

Glen Ellyn Kiwanis: Leslie Goddard on "Clara Barton"

Jan. 6th

Northern Illinois CWRT: Ed Bearss, "Battlefield Medicine"

Jan. 11th

Homewood Historical Society, at the Homewood Flossmore Public Library: Bruce Allardice on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals"

Jan. 17th

Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Nora Titone on "The Booth Brothers"

Jan. 20th

Salt Creek CWRT: Art Foley on "James Blunt"

Jan. 21st

On Jan. 21st, Midway Village in Rockford will be hosting its Tenth Annual Civil War Symposium. Speakers are Michael Burlingame on "Abraham Lincoln," Bruce Allardice on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals," and Thomas Johnson on "Rockford was Lincoln Country." Music will be provided by Dave Corbett's "Battlefield Balladeers." The event runs from 10-2 and costs \$28 per person, and includes a box lunch. Call Midway Village at 815 397-9112 to register.

Jan. 26th

South Suburban CWRT: Brian Conroy on "Seeing the Elephant"

Feb. 1st

Kankakee Valley CWRT: Don Goin on "The Sultana"

Feb. 3rd

Northern Illinois CWRT: Paula Walker on "Major General G. K. Warren"

Feb. 17th

Salt Creek CWRT: Leslie Goddard as "Mary Chesnut"

Feb. 21st

South Holland Historical Society: Bruce Allardice on "Lincoln as War leader"

Feb. 21st

Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Caroline Janney on "Ladies Memorial Associations"

Feb. 23rd

South Suburban CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Lee's First Invasion: Antietam"

Mar. 2nd

Northern Illinois CWRT: James Ogden, Topic TBA

Mar. 3rd

South Suburban Heritage Assn Civil War Symposium at the Thornton Township Office. Speakers include Professor Art Burton, Dr. Wayne Wolf, Professor Bruce Allardice, and Rev. Larry McClellan.

Mar. 7th

Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo, Topic TBA

Mar. 16th

Salt Creek CWRT: TBA

Mar. 20th

Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Kenneth Noe on "Reluctant Rebels"

Mar. 22nd

South Suburban CWRT: Bruce Allardice on "Chicago and the Civil War"

Apr. 4th

Kankakee Valley CWRT: Sam Blackwell, Topic TBA

Apr. 6th

Northern Illinois CWRT: Rick Andresen on "Reconstruction"

Apr. 20th

Salt Creek CWRT: TBA

April 21-22

Civil War Numismatic Society Forum at the Schaumburg Renaissance Convention Center

Apr. 26th

South Suburban CWRT: Larry McClellan on "The Underground Railroad in Illinois"

May 2nd

Kankakee Valley CWRT: Forum

May 4th

Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom Cartwright, Topic TBA

May 18th

Salt Creek CWRT: TBA

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 Bearss speaking on "Personal Milestones along the Way: 50 Years of Civil War Round Tables"

GRAPESHOT



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 It: 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 e-mail wag@wilmettelibrary.info in order to register.

On Jan. 4th, **Rob Girardi** will speak on "Illinois and the Civil War" at the Kankakee CWRT.

Leslie Goddard will present "Clara Barton" at the Glen Ellyn Kiwanis on Jan. 4th.

On Jan. 21st, Midway Village in Rockford will be hosting its Tenth Annual Civil War Symposium. Speakers are Michael Burlingame on "Abraham Lincoln," Bruce Allardice on "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals," and Thomas Johnson on "Rockford was Lincoln Country." Music will be provided by Dave Corbett's "Battlefield Balladeers." The event runs from 10-2 and costs \$28 per person, and includes a box lunch. Call Midway Village at 815 397-9112 to register.

Check the **Announcements** section of the CWRT's website for additional coming 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 (630) 297-8046.

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@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

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 Gugala 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 Civil War Museum: "Exploring the Lady Elgin"

Dec. 10th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Victorian Christmas. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.

Dec. 15th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party

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

Dec. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Richard Crowe on "Civil War Ghosts"

Reminder: 2012 Tour
(Chickamauga/Chattanooga)
May 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*.

Dec. 9: James Robertson, "The Untold Civil War"

Jan. 13: Parker Hills, "Chickamauga"

Feb. 10: Harry Bulkeley, "I Propose to Fight it Out"

March 9: A. Wilson Greene, "Nevins-Freeman Address"

April 13: Marshall Krolick, "Riding for the Union: 8th Illinois Cavalry Troopers"

May 8: Bruce Holden Reid, TBA

June 8: Dennis Frye, "Antietam"

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be Dec. 10th, at noon, with Bud Robertson talking about his new book, [The Untold Civil War](#), and Keith Dickson on his book [Sustaining Southern Identity: Douglas Southall Freeman and Memory in the Modern South](#). Visit www.virtualbooksigning.net for more details.

North & South Magazine is offering a special year-long subscription (6 issues) for just \$9.99 (regular price is \$40) 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.