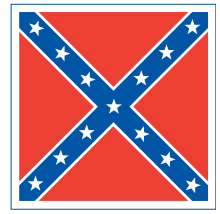


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 2012



707th REGULAR MEETING

Parker Hills

on

“Chickamauga”

★★★★★

Friday, January 13

★★★★★

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 Napoleon.

Baked Tilapia.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

please note

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Jan. 11, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 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.

Parker Hills on Chickamauga

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The Battle of Chickamauga has been called the “lost opportunity” of the Confederacy. For the one time in its checkered history, the Confederate Army of Tennessee won a smashing victory, routing the main Union army of the West. Yet the victory proved curiously hollow.

Historians have spilled a “Caspian Sea of ink” discussing the paralysis of Confederate general Braxton Bragg when presented with a victory. That victory could have had profound ramifications. Instead, it resulted in severe recriminations that further poisoned the command relationships in the Army of Tennessee and planted the seeds of the Confederate disaster at Missionary Ridge two months later.

Of our January speaker, Parker Hills, Slate Magazine has written: “His command of the material is daunting, yet he’s also possessed of a courtly charm that helps the history go down smoothly. He’s like Shelby Foote, with a touch of Warren Buffet.”

Parker Hills has conducted scores of military staff rides since he organized and conducted the first one in Mississippi in 1987. He has traveled the nation to conduct these staff rides, as well as to England at the request of



Parker Hills

Sandhurst Royal Military Academy. He has also conducted dozens of civilian tours of battlefields for non-profit organizations involved in battlefield preservation, and is a regular speaker at Civil War Roundtables, battlefield preservation groups, civic clubs and seminars.

During his 31 years as a Regular Army and National Guard officer, he served in various command and staff positions. He served as president of an advertising agency for 15 years in Jackson, Mississippi, and established “Battle Focus” (a tour group) upon his military retirement in 2001. He holds

a bachelor’s degree in Commercial Art; a Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology; is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College; and is the author of A Study in Warfighting: Nathan Bedford Forrest and the Battle of Brice’s Crossroads and co-author of Vicksburg Campaign Driving Tour Guide. Hills retired with the rank of Brigadier General in May, 2001.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Historic Fort Monroe, Virginia Named A National Monument

— (by Scott C. Boyd)
Hampton, VA - Bypassing stalled congressional legislation aimed at making historic Fort Monroe a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), President Barack Obama accomplished the same thing on November 1st via a proclamation invoking the 1906 Antiquities Act. That act gives the president authority to restrict the use of specific public land owned by the federal government by declaring it a national monument. Fort Monroe National Monument became the nation's 396th NPS unit.

Virginia Governor Robert F. McDonnell thanked Obama in a November 7th letter and added, "Your decision and subsequent actions are key to Fort Monroe taking its rightful place as a recognized monument to our nation's history."

Obama's proclamation was enabled by a September 9th letter from McDonnell proposing terms for the Commonwealth of Virginia to convey certain parts of its property at Fort Monroe to the federal government for a national park. ...

Glenn Oder, new executive director of the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA), the political subdivision responsible for operating and managing the fort after it reverts to Virginia, said that approximately 57 percent of the acreage will go to the NPS and 43 percent to the FMA under the arrangement between Obama and McDonnell.

Obama's proclamation was endorsed by national preservation groups and was widely applauded. "I'm over the moon," Director of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Kathleen Kilpatrick said. "It's something many people have worked for a long time."

"The Sesquicentennial is a perfect time to create a Civil War national park," said Civil War Trust Director of Policy

and Communications Jim Campi. "We had initially supported legislation to create a national park, but the politics of the situation are that legislation was going to take a long time to get through Congress, so this was the next best thing," he said. ...

"We are thrilled at this action by President Obama—a significant portion of Fort Monroe is now assured of long-term preservation and the highest quality of interpretation," said Mark Perreault, president of Citizens for a Fort Monroe National Park. "This action came only 45 days after the Army garrison closed, far earlier than even in our fondest hopes," he said. ...

According to the NPS Fort Monroe includes 170 historic buildings and nearly 200 acres of natural resources, including 8 miles of waterfront, 3.2 miles of beaches on the Chesapeake Bay, 110 acres of submerged lands and 85 acres of wetlands. The fort's website is www.nps.gov/fomr.

Civil War Trust Needs \$1.2 M For 285 Acres At Gaines Mill

Washington, D.C.- The Civil War Trust is raising \$ 1.2 million to complete the \$3.2 million purchase of 285 acres at Gaines' Mill, a site Trust President James Lighthizer calls one of the three most important pieces of hallowed ground the Trust has ever tried to save.

Gaines' Mill is also one of the most unprotected battlefields. Out of more than 2,000-plus battleground acres, the National Park Service (NPS) owns 60 acres, the Richmond Battlefields Association recently acquired 4 acres and the Trust owns 1.8 acres.

The Trust anticipates receiving \$1 million in grants from the Commonwealth of Virginia and \$1 million committed from other donors. The Trust's share must be raised before the July 15 closing.

The target parcel includes the entire western flank of the battlefield, which

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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.

is most of the land covered by five brigades of General James Longstreet's Confederate right wing when they attacked on June 27, 1862.

According to Civil War Trust Deputy Director, Communications, Mary Koik the tract, which is comprised of three contiguous parcels, "retains tremendous integrity and similarity to its wartime appearance." She said, "Today, much of the land is currently being farmed in soybeans, but significant wooded portions of the property are wetland—just as the area around Boatswain's Creek was swampy in '62."

The NPS land on the south side of Boatswain's Creek abuts the target property and is open to visitors with trails and interpretive markers.

NPS historian Robert E. L. Krick told the Civil War Trust in an interview: "Although the poor state of preservation at Gaines' Mill is the bad news, the really encouraging thing is that most of the battlefield is intact. We have not lost it. Nearly all of the battlefield survives in better than average condition, and the potential truly is enormous."

Battle history, photos, video and maps of the site can be seen at www.civilwar.org.

(from December issue of *Civil War News*)

December Talk

BY MARK MATRANGA

On December 9, 2011, James I. “Bud” Robertson addressed the 706th meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on his current book, *The Untold Civil War: Exploring the Human Side of War*. The book had its genesis in a series of 350 vignettes originally broadcast on National Public Radio, in which Professor Robertson delivered talks on little-known but captivating aspects of the Civil War. The National Geographic Society commissioned Robertson to collect these essays into book form for its sesquicentennial offering on the war.

The book is organized around six central themes. In “The Human Side of War,” Robertson delves into stories such as the two brothers from Maryland, estranged for years and fighting on opposite sides, hold hands while dying on a battlefield at the end of the war. Others are lighter, such as those displaying Lincoln’s humor. In 1863, upon denying a request for leave to travel to Richmond, he remarked, “I would gladly give you the pass if it would do any good, but in the last few years I have given passes to 200,000 soldiers and not one of them has managed to get to Richmond yet.” And in referring to Ben Butler, whose eyes pointed in different directions, he told his cabinet Butler “doesn’t see things the same way we do.” He also called cartoonist Thomas Nast “my best recruiting sergeant” for his work supporting the war.

“The Life of Soldiers” covers the contributions of families and everyday life in the camps. Robertson highlighted regimental mascots, which included not only dogs and

cats, but pigs and a camel! ‘Little Sally,’ a pup who campaigned with the 11th Pennsylvania, was found guarding unit dead at Gettysburg. Killed in action and buried at Hatcher’s Run, she is memorialized on the regiment’s monument at Gettysburg. The most famous mascot was “Old Abe,” the eagle adopted by the 8th Wisconsin who took flight in battle. His statue perches atop the Wisconsin monument at Vicksburg, and his visage is displayed on the patch of the 101st Airborne Division.

Unforgettable characters make up the folklore of the war, particularly spies like the well-educated daughter of a prosperous Richmond merchant, Elizabeth Van Lew. A staunch unionist who feigned insanity, she obtained permission to visit prisons where she gathered important information; her home was a way station for escaping union prisoners. Following the war, President Grant appointed her Richmond’s postmaster, to her former neighbors’ chagrin. Another character was Quartermaster General Montgomery Meigs, who seized Arlington, the estate of his former friend R.E. Lee, and converted it into a graveyard, where 2,111 unknown union dead were buried in the rose garden. The Supreme Court later returned the property to the family, and the Lee-Custis mansion is now a monument, but the remains of Meigs lay feet from its entrance, a reminder of the bitter feelings engendered by the war.

“Warriors, Poets, and Scoundrels” includes Benjamin Butler. Appointed Major General for his political

connections, Butler found little success as a military leader. Without orders, he seized runaway slaves as contraband of war. When appointed to command New Orleans, after “slops” were poured on Admiral Farragut’s head, he issued orders treating disloyal local women as prostitutes. Jefferson Davis declared Butler an outlaw.

The conflict of the 1860s is often called “A War of Firsts.” Because the ironclad Monitor had no convenient way for sailors to relieve themselves, John Ericsson invented the “water chest.” Among other firsts were women wearing slacks, canned goods, standard time, prosthetic limbs, and home delivery of mail. Santa Claus first appeared in a Christmas, 1862, Thomas Nast cartoon. Called “nasty” for the sarcastic nature of his work, Nast also introduced the donkey and elephant as symbols of our major political parties.

A heartfelt description of animals suffering the horrors of war, the female surgeon awarded the Medal of Honor, the legacy of left-handed veterans, and the improvement in weather Stonewall Jackson felt upon taking a dose of brandy, all demonstrate Professor Robertson’s guiding principle: “History is most appealing when it underscores human experiences and their accompanying emotions.” A destructive war whose sides reconciled without apology as the nation bound its wounds, the Civil War was, after all, a human experience. To understand it, one must comprehend the deep emotions of that time.

GRAPESHOT



Rob Girardi will present “Illinois Fights the Civil War” at the Waukegan Men’s Center Jan. 19th and Jan. 25th.

On Jan. 11th, **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “The Ten Worst Civil War Generals” to the Homewood Historical Society. The HS meeting starts at 7 p.m.

Terry Lynch will present “U.S. Grant” at the Naper Settlement on Sunday, Jan. 8th, at 4 p.m.

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

- Jan. 4th, Lake County CWRT: Film and discussion on “The Battle of Wilson’s Creek”
- Jan. 4th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on “Illinois and the Civil War”
- Jan. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Ed Bearss** on “Battlefield Medicine”
- Jan. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: Parker Hills on “Chickamauga”
- Jan. 13th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Sarah Emma Edmonds, aka Private Frank Thomson” by Jenna Theissen. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Jan. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Nora Titone on “My Thoughts Be Bloody: The Booth Brothers”
- Jan. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Art Foley on “General James Blunt”
- Jan. 26th, South Suburban CWRT: Brian Conroy on “Seeing the Elephant”
- Jan. 28th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Steve Michaels on “Our Invisible Civil War Memorials”
- Jan. 28th, McHenry County CWRT: Discussion Group, on “Raising the Armies”

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*.

- 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 January 7th, at noon, with **Ed Bearss** signing his new book, Receding Tide, and talking about his new work on the Petersburg Campaign. At 1:00 the same day, **Jim McPherson** and **Orville Vernon Burton** will talk about Ed’s legendary career. 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. You can visit www.northandsouthmagazine.com for more details.

REMINDER—The 2012 tour is coming up. Visit the website to download the registration form!