The annual Abraham Lincoln Association Symposium will be held Feb. 11-12 in Springfield. Speakers include Dr. Ethan Ra-

fuse from the Army Staff Col-
lege, Professors Chandra Man-
ning, James Oakes, and Howard Jones. Reservations can be made online at www.abrahamlincol-
nassociation.org or by calling (866) 865-8500.

On Feb. 21st Bruce Allardice will speak on “Lincoln as War Leader” at the South Holland Historical Society.

On Feb. 12th Max and Donna Daniels will present “An Evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln” at the Naper Settlement in Naperville.

Grapeshot

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished histor-
ians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preser-
vation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Neesman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

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Feb. 4th, Kenosha Civil War Mu-

seum: “Offensive and Defensive Tactics of the Civil War” by Steve Acker. Visit www.thechicivarmu-

seum.org for more details.
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SchimmeISFennin Boutique

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Seeing Grant the Civil War Round Table way

Ulysses S. Grant demonstrated what might be called the Peter Principle in reverse; he couldn’t handle small jobs, but give him a huge task like saving the Union, and he performed marvelously well.

Grant’s story is one of great abili-
ties, hidden and undiscovered until a vast war brought them out. And not merely abilities as a general. His memoirs, compiled just prior to his death, are rightly regarded as one of the best memoirs ever written by a historical figure.

“I Intend to Fight it Out” is a one-

man show presented by Harry Bulkeley as General Ulysses S. Grant. It opens with Grant working on his memoirs shortly before his death. He narrates episodes in his life, changing uni-

forms as the story unfolds. Bulkeley says he tries to provide an insight into Grant as a man. “For too many people, General Grant has become a caricature. My presentation tries to explain more about the man him-

self. He was during his life, chang-

ing in reverse: he couldn’t handle small affairs, but he could handle great ones.”

Bulkeley has always been in-

terested in the Civil War. About fifteen years ago he developed an interest in Grant. “I grew a beard for the first recitation I ever attended as a Confederate!” When I got home, I was reading a biography of the general when I noticed the physi-

cal resemblance.”

After portraying Grant at several national events, Bulkeley appeared as the title character in “Ulysses Grant: Warrior–President” for the PBS series American Experience. A few years later he was in “Sherman’s March” on The History Channel.

This spring, he will be Grant in the new film for the visitors’ center at the Shiloh National Battlefield Park.

For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at editor@chicagocwrt.org or (630) 297-8046.

Catherine B. Phelan

Call by Wednesday
Feb. 8
The creation of Shiloh National Military Park
The idea of establishing a park at Shiloh began in 1893 when veterans formed the Shiloh Battlefield Association. The Army of Tennessee veterans desired a park to commemorate their actions in the war and to preserve the entire battlefield. Shiloh, far from any big city or major transportation route, except the Tennessee River, did not fit the mold of Gettysburg, Chickamauga, and Chattanooga and Antietam.

The Shiloh Battlefield Association used donations from each member of the 12,000-man association, almost all from the enlisted ranks, to fund this venture. Many prominent men who had fought at the battle of Shiloh supported the association such as Major General John A. McClernand, Benjamin Prentiss, Lew Wallace and Don Carlos Buell. The group also named prominent Confederates to the list, including former generals Basil Duke and Joseph Wheeler, and former Tennessee governor and staff officer Isham O. Harris, a Democrat in the United States Senate. This list of command- ers from both North and South demonstrated the reconciliation of the lines that drove the Shiloh conservation movement. Their main goal was to persuade Congress to fund the venture. The author of the legislation from Congress was Iowa representative David B. Henderson.

David B. Henderson was a Shiloh veteran and member of the House, serving as Judiciary Committee chairman and later as Speaker of the House. The creation of the Shiloh National Military Park was a personal quest for Henderson. Henderson’s brother Thomas, killed at Shiloh, lay buried at Shiloh National Cemetery. With no formalized process from Congress to oversee the preservation of battlefields Henderson asked for help from Henry V. Boynton, a leader on the subject of battlefield preservation from his work on the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park.

Henderson, with the help of Henry V. Boynton, crafted a bill creating the Shiloh National Military Park. The secretary of war would have authority over the park and a three-man commission would carry out the day-to-day governmental affairs at Shiloh. The bill stipulated that each commission would be a veteran of the Civil War and a veteran of the armies that fought at Shiloh, and one commissioner would be named from each army. This arrangement would maintain the ratio of two Union commissioners and one Confederate, as established at Chickamauga. Shiloh National Military Park became a reality on December 27th, 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed the bill into law.

Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont appointed the commission soon after Congress established the park. Lamont named Cornelius Cadle of the 11th Iowa Infantry to head the commission, and Don Carlos Buell and Robert F. Looney, former colonel of the 38th Tennessee Infantry, to round out the commission. The Secretary of War appointed Shiloh historian and veteran of the 12th Iowa David W. Reed as historian. Reed had been appointed to command the Chickamauga, and was the road engineer at Chickamauga, Atwell Thompson, became chief engineer. The three-way communication between Cadle, Reed and Thompson dominated the establishment of the Shiloh National Military Park.

Reed would use the Official Records as a source for the history of the battle. He also obtained the oral histories from the veteran reunions at Shiloh to clarify any confusion in battle reports. Reed visited with former higher-ranking officers who were helpful in locating positions and clearing up misunderstandings in the reports.

Reed dominated the decisions on the original placement of the tables marking the field. He decided the colors, wrote the inscriptions, and marked the positions. Reed would establish the first permanent interpretive scheme at the park. The Reed maps of the battlefield and the official commission history still stand as basic sources for the understanding the battle of Shiloh. Reed’s book published in 1902, The Battle of Shiloh and the Organizations Engaged, created the dominant historical interpretation of the battle of Shiloh. Reed would later serve as chairman of the Shiloh commission and be called the “Father of the Shiloh National Military Park.” In 1933 the Shiloh National Military Park was transferred to the National Park Service.

For information on donating money to save Shiloh please check the www.civilwar.org website. The current campaign is to save 267 acres of the Fallen Timbers battlefield at Shiloh.

Parker Hills addressed the 70th meeting of The Civil War Round Table on January 13, 2012, on how command relationships affected the outcome of the Chickamauga/ Chattanooga campaigns. These relationships developed at West Point, during the Mexican War and in the initial campaigns to control the Mississippi and the ‘heartland’ of the Confederacy.

The Grant/Sherman relationship which grew out of the Shiloh and Corinth campaigns was the most important of these. Sherman was willing to “waive rank” and supported Grant after Shiloh, when Grant was being savaged in the press and had been effectively demoted by General Halleck, who took field command of the combined army before Corinth and mustered the Confederates in the area under command. Grant felt little more than an observer and intended to leave the army, but Sherman persuaded him to stay, with fateful consequences for both.

With Halleck called to Washington in the summer of 1862, Grant was restored to command. This did not bode well for General Thomas, who had been appointed to command Grant’s army during the Corinth campaign. General Rosecrans also came under scrutiny for a less than stellar performance at Iuka and for failing to pursue Van Dorn after the battle of Corinth. Perhaps more important, Grant suspected Rosecrans was the source of leaks regarding Grant’s alleged drinking problem. Rosecrans was saved from being relieved when he was appointed to command the Army of the Cumberland.

Having lost a considerable numbers of seats in the 1862 midterm elections, Lincoln felt it imperative to go on the offensive on all fronts. The immediate results of this policy produced over 27,000 casualties. After Stones River, Bragg withdrew to Tullahoma, buying Lincoln time with the people and the press. But while Grant and Hooker had been reinforced, and took the offensive in May 1863, Rosecrans did not. Rosecrans finally moved in August, maneuvering Bragg out of Chattanooga and into north Georgia.

On the Confederate side, General Bragg had been criticized for re- treating from Tennessee and stated he would resign if he did not poss- ess the confidence of his subordi- nates. When his generals did not support him, President Davis sent the road engineer to relieve Bragg, but Johnson declined to take command. Thus, the Confederate command structure was in disarray at the time of the Battle of Chickamauga.

Longstreet reinforced Bragg before Chickamauga with two divi- sions. While the additional man- power was helpful, Longstreet had command designs of his own and worked to unseat Bragg. Meanwhile, two corps under Hooker and elements of Sherman’s army moved to relieve Chattanooga. Rosecrans failed to impress Assistant Secre- tary of War Dana who was also as- signed there: he called Washington politicians “bums” and acted like a “stunned duck” following the de- bacle at Chickamauga. Thus, when Grant was given the discretion to keep or replace Rosecrans with Thomas, the choice was not neces-
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