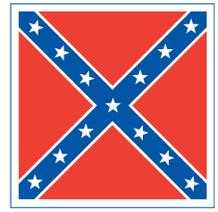


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 2012



710th REGULAR MEETING

Marshall D. Krolick

on

“The 8th Illinois Calvary”

★★★★★

Friday, April 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 Heartland,
Baked Halibut,
Vegetarian Plate or
Fruit Plate*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Apr. 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 email us at dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org and/or call us at 630-460-1865.

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.

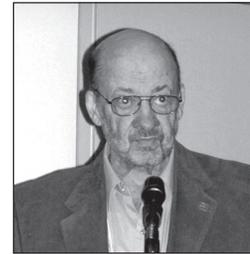
Marshall D. Krolick on Riding for the Union: Memoirs of the 8th Illinois Calvary

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

They were farm boys, store clerks and factory workers from the towns and prairies of Illinois. Their experiences with horses had mostly been from behind, either walking with a plow or riding in a wagon. Certainly it had not been sitting atop a horse while at a full gallop. Yet they came together to form one of the finest cavalry regiments of the Civil War, respected and admired by friend and foe alike.

In their diaries and letters home, and in their postwar writings, they recounted their experiences as troopers. These memories tell us of the good times and the bad; the many achievements and the few failures. However, in each reminiscence, there is a common thread. It is pride, a pride that glowed within each of them for the rest of their lives whenever they said, “I rode for the Union with the 8th Illinois Cavalry.”

A native Chicagoan, **Marshall D. Krolick** earned a B.A. from Drake University in 1959 and a J.D. from Northwestern Univer-



Marshall D. Krolick

sity Law School in 1962. He is Of Counsel to the Chicago law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, Chtd., specializing in commercial and industrial real estate law. Marshall currently resides in Weston, Florida, and Northbrook, Illinois.

Mr. Krolick has been a member of the CWRT of Chicago since 1961, serving the CWRT in several capacities including president (1971-72), and editor of its newsletter (1974-79). In 1990 he received the CWRT’s Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished scholarship and dedication to Civil War study. He is a

member of numerous charitable associations, several Jewish historical societies, and other round tables. His published works on the Civil War include articles in most of the major Civil War magazines, and he was for several years a columnist for Civil War Times Illustrated. Marshall regularly guides tours of Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

The Preservation of the H.L. Hunley

On the night of February 17, 1864, the *H.L. Hunley* became the world's first successful combat submarine sinking the *USS Housatonic* off the coast of Charleston. Today the South Carolina Hunley Commission and a private, non-profit group called the Friends of the Hunley are working together on solving the mystery of this submarine. For more information on the H.L. Hunley please check www.hunley.org. Below is latest update from the March *Civil War News* on the Hunley.

The Hunley Sub Is Free of Truss, Visible For First Time

By Scott C. Boyd
Charleston, S.C.—The Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley is now fully visible for the first time since it sank in 1864.

The 17,000-pound metal framework, or truss, which had covered the submarine since it was recovered from the sea on August 8th, 2000 was removed on January 12th as a small crowd of reporters and Hunley project workers anxiously watched.

"I was very nervous. I don't want anything heavy above the sub," head conservator Paul Mardikian said later.

After about 15 minutes, two cranes finished safely moving the truss up and away from the Hunley. Mardikian yelled, "Champagne now!" "It's like looking at her for the first time. It's beautiful," he said.

Archeologist Ben Rennison observed, "The Hunley looks a lot smaller, but it looks like a sub in drydock ready to go."

"It's amazing," said Kellen Correia, executive director of the Friends of the Hunley.

The rectangular truss stood over the 40-foot-long submarine and had held it in a series of slings. It was used to raise the submarine from the ocean and then support it in its water tank home at the Warren Lasch Conserva-

tion Center, now operated by Clemson University, at the former navy base in North Charleston.

Since 2000, the 55,000-gallon tank in which the Hunley sat held fresh water with "an impressed electrical current to keep corrosion very low," Mardikian said. When the tank was drained periodically to allow archeologists to excavate the vessel's interior, a sprinkler system protected the Hunley from corrosion.

Discovered under water at a 45-degree list to starboard in 1995, just outside the mouth of Charleston Harbor, the Hunley was kept in the truss at the same angle during and after the recovery until the submarine was rotated into an upright position in late June 2011.

Mardikian said rotating the submarine upright was the key preparation for removing the truss and was the more technically challenging and dangerous task.

Within six months the Hunley will go into an "active conservation phase," Mardikian explained. The focus will be on removing the salt the iron submarine acquired while being under water for 136 years. "Had the sub been in a fresh water lake, we wouldn't have this problem," he said.

The impressed electric current has already removed a lot of salt from the metal, but to get the submarine into a stable state, he said it must be soaked now in a chemical solution of sodium hydroxide. "It's very caustic, with a pH of 13," he said, adding that the fumes aren't hazardous, but direct contact with the liquid would be.

Mardikian estimated the Hunley will need to soak in the chemical solution for about three months before the remaining concretion on the hull is ready to be chipped off. He could not commit to a timetable, saying the results of the chemical action would dictate the pace. "The submarine will tell us how long it needs." "When we clean off the concretion, we're going to see things we've never seen before. It will help us understand the final mo-

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.

ments of the submarine," he said.

The mystery of why the Hunley did not return after sinking the *USS Housatonic* on February 17th, 1864, becoming the first submarine to sink an enemy warship, has yet to be solved.

Beyond chipping off the visible hull concretion, the Hunley will need to remain in the caustic solution for several years before becoming stable, according to Mardikian.

At that point, when the conservation is completed, the truss will be placed over the Hunley and it will be moved to its final destination for display, a museum-like setting yet to be determined.

"There is no textbook, no roadmap, for how to conserve a Civil War submarine, excavate the crew members, do the DNA analysis of degraded remains, do the facial reconstructions, conserve fabrics that have underwater for over a century," Mardikian told reporters. "No one in the world can tell you but us now how to do it."

Some 500,000 visitors have seen the Hunley over the past 11 years, according to Correia. After removal of the truss, however, the visitor experience is very different.

"You can get a full sense of the Hunley for the first time," she said. "Everyone who has been here before needs to come back, because they've never seen it like this."

March Talk

BY MARK MATRANGA

The annual Nevins-Freeman address on the Bermuda Hundred Campaign was delivered by A. Wilson Greene at the 709th meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago on March 9, 2012. This campaign is overshadowed by the Overland and Petersburg Campaigns. However, during sixteen days in May 1864 there were eight engagements in this complicated campaign which resulted in over ten thousand casualties.

The officer most associated with the Bermuda Hundred Campaign, Benjamin F. Butler, rose to prominence in pre-war Massachusetts politics. Although a Democrat, Butler remained an ardent unionist: his unit was one of the first to arrive in Washington. When assigned to Fortress Monroe, he anticipated future war policy by refusing to return escaped slaves. His status as a War Democrat and some success during operations in North Carolina brought him command of the campaign for New Orleans. But the aroma of corruption surrounding his administration following capture of that city resulted in his removal in late 1862.

For the next year, Butler was on the stump supporting the war effort. His popularity was such that Lincoln considered him a rival, and he was given a new command, the 40,000-man Army of the James. This unit had few officers with pre-war military experience and was primarily made up of conscripts from New England and New York. Butler's corps commanders were Quincy Gilmore, an engineer with few command skills, and W. F. "Baldy" Smith, who possessed a penchant for being critical of his superiors. George Pickett opposed them with a force of 13,000 assigned to protect

the railroads from Wilmington, NC to Richmond.

Grant instructed Butler to establish a base between the James and Appomattox, seize the Richmond and Petersburg Railroad, and to assist Meade when the latter reached Richmond. Butler erroneously considered his mission simply that of securing the peninsula and awaiting Meade. This probably doomed the campaign.

Sensing Union army movement, Pickett sounded the alarm; his government responded by placing P.G.T. Beauregard in command over him. Beauregard collected troops from other states and from General Ransom's command at Richmond. Butler landed on May 5th. Pickett commanded just 1,400 men, but Butler first secured his base, giving the Confederates time to reinforce. He attacked at Port Walthall Junction on the 6th and 7th when Federal forces tore up a small section of railroad. On May 9th, Smith met Bushrod Johnson's division at Swift Creek where a Confederate reconnaissance in force was repulsed. On May 10th, Ransom attacked at Chester Station, stopping Federal destruction of the railroad and causing Butler to retire to his entrenchments.

Beauregard arrived on May 10th, taking command from the emotionally drained Pickett. Butler did not strike until May 13th at Woolridge Hill on Drewy's Bluff. Beauregard determined to concentrate and attack Butler's poorly-placed troops, in conjunction with an attack on their rear by Whiting's force from south of the Appomattox. The May 16th assault, a sanguine affair involving approximately 17,000 men, was compromised when Whiting

failed to attack. After Beauregard's May 20th attack at Ware Bottom Church, the Confederates constructed the Howlett Line, effectively ending the campaign. With this both sides began to pull units for action northward.

Greene disagrees with the notion that Butler was "corked" in the Bermuda Hundred – he maneuvered forces across the Appomattox and transferred them without incident; Butler claimed he kept thousands of Confederate soldiers occupied. Greene doubts any officer could have succeeded with the commanders Butler was assigned. On the southern side, Pickett performed well but suffered a nervous breakdown for his efforts. Beauregard's initial absence was suspicious. His plans were well designed but thwarted in turn by his subordinates Ransom and Whiting. While Greene does not consider Bermuda Hundred the farce some do, it remains a study in how not to manage a military campaign.

Ed Bearss Award

Please support our goal to raise \$2,000 dollars for the 11th Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award. Every year on our battlefield tour Ed selects two battlefields, and the roundtable sends a \$1,000 check in his name for battlefield preservation. Please help us reach this goal by April 27th.

The annual CWRT election for officers will be at the May meeting. As in prior years, the nomination committee will present its selections, and members present at the meeting can make other nominations from the floor.

GRAPESHOT



On Saturday, Apr. 21st, the DuPage County Fairgrounds will host the annual “Civil War and Military Collector’s Show” from 9-4. Admission is \$9. For more information, phone (715) 526-9769 or visit www.zurkopromotions.com.

On Apr. 20-21, the Civil War Numismatic Society will host a Civil War Forum at the Schaumburg Renaissance Convention Center

On April 12th, the Wheaton History Center is presenting a program on “Andersonville & the Civil War.”

Bob Kuzma will speak on “Will County Goes to War” Apr. 28th, at the Joliet Area Historical Museum.

On April 14th **Rob Girardi** will speak on “the Midwest in the Civil War” at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. The event is part of the Civil War Trust’s Teacher’s Institute.

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

- Apr. 4th, Lake County CWRT: Charlie Banks on “U.S. Military Railroads”
- Apr. 4th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Sam Blackwell, topic TBA
- Apr. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Rick Andresen on “Reconstruction”
- Apr. 10th, McHenry County CWRT: Marta Vincent, “Clothing Worn by Women from Breakfast to Ballroom”
- Apr. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: **Marshall Krolick** on “The 8th Illinois Cavalry”
- Apr. 13th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: “Swords of the Civil War” by Richard Bezdek. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- Apr. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Georgiann Baldino on “A Soldier’s Friend—Cornelia Hancock, Civil War Nurse”
- Apr. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Richard Crowe on “The Lincoln Assassination”
- Apr. 26th, South Suburban CWRT: Larry McClellan on “The Underground Railroad in Illinois”
- Apr. 26th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: **Ed Bearss** on “The Shiloh Campaign”
- Apr. 27th, Union League Round Table: at 11:30, Michael Burlingame and Robert Shaw on “Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way”

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*.

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

May 18: Bruce Holden Reid, “Strategy of the Civil War”

June 8: Dennis Frye, “Antietam”

Sept. 14: Tom Schwartz, Nevins-Freeman Address

Oct. 12: Ed Bonekemper, TBA

Nov. 11: Dale Phillips, TBA

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next “Virtual Book Signing” will be Saturday, April 28th, at noon, with **Michael Burlingame** and **Robert Shaw** talking about their new book, Abraham Lincoln Traveled This Way. Visit www.virtualbooksigning.net for more details.

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