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.

June 8: Dennis Frye, “September Suspense”

July 13: Bruce Allardice, “Lincoln’s Union in Peril”

Aug. 10: Dennis Frye, “September Suspense”

Sept. 14: TBA

Oct. 12: TBA

Nov. 9: TBA

Dec. 7: TBA

Camp Douglas News!
The Chicago Park District has approved an archaeological dig at the Camp Douglas site, tentatively scheduled for June 25th-29th. Mike Weeks of the Camp Douglas heritage organization is looking for some help with the dig, specifically, steel fencing, use of a truck for the week, and donations to help cover the insurance costs. Contact Mike at (773) 547-3475 for more details.

Dennis Frye on “September Suspense: Lincoln’s Union in Peril”

By September, 1862, the United States had entered the 18th month of its Civil War. General Robert E. Lee’s Confederate army had invaded the north, the Union cause seemed at a standstill, and many observers wondered whether the north would begin to question if the bloodshed was worth the cause.

In Dennis Frye’s new book September Suspense, he examines just how fragile the national bond had become in the autumn of 1862. Frye’s June talk to the CWRT will be based on that book.

Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Dennis served as an Associate Producer for the Civil War movie Gods and Generals, during which he recruited and coordinated nearly 3,000 re-enactors for the film. Dennis also is one of the nation’s leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today of the Civil War Preservation Trust, where he helped save battlefields in twelve states. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables.

Dennis also is a well-known author, with 27 articles and six books. His latest books are September Suspense, Artemis Revealed and Hatchery Un- der Fire. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as Civil War Times Illustrated, America’s Civil War, Blue & Gray Magazine, North and South Magazine, and Hallowed Ground, and is a guest contributor to the Washington Post.

Dennis grew up near Antietam. He and his wife Sylvia have restored the home Dennis also is a well-known author, with 27 articles and six books. His latest books are September Suspense, Artemis Revealed and Hatchery Under Fire. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as Civil War Times Illustrated, America’s Civil War, Blue & Gray Magazine, North and South Magazine, and Hallowed Ground, and is a guest contributor to the Washington Post.

Dennis Frye

Call by Wednesday June 6
Virginia Helps CW Trust to Finance Middleburg Land Buy
By Scott C. Boyd

MIDDLEBURG, Va. — “It’s more than about just preserving five acres today, it’s about the history and what we can learn from it and how we move forward,” Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell said on May 9 as he announced a $432,000 grant to help the Civil War Trust purchase and preserve Mount Defiance near Middleburg.

“The significance of this ground to the Gettysburg Campaign is enormous,” historian Clark B. “Bud” Hall said at the news conference. “Mount Defiance is properly understood as one of the inaugural actions of the war’s threshold campaign — Gettysburg.”

The Trust is paying $540,000, with the deal set to close on May 31, according to Policy and Communications Director Jim Campi. The funding comes from the state grant, $54,000 the Trust is applying for from the American Battlefield Protection Program’s Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, and $544,000 to be raised by The Trust.

The Trust got an early start on its share of the funding when Middleburg philanthropist and Mosby Heritage Association President Childs Burden and his wife Elaine contributed $10,000.

The plan is for the Trust to purchase the property, which is on Route 50, place a permanent conservation easement on it and eventually give it to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA).

The NVRPA is a regional organization that has preserved more than 10,000 acres. It administers 35 parks and related facilities, including Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, Mosby Heritage Park and Aldie Mill Historic Park.

“Mount Defiance is going to be a wonderful addition to our inventory of historic properties,” NVRPA Executive Director Paul Gilbert said.

The five acres straddles two counties — 2.8 acres, assessed at $592,100, are in Fauquier County while 2.2 acres, assessed at $39,300, are in Loudoun County. The Trust said the landscape is largely undisturbed. An antebellum manor house turned into a tavern, a blacksmith’s cottage and blacksmith’s shop where hand-to-hand battle took place are on the tract ...

A host of state and local officials attended the news conference at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg.

Virginia Director of Historic Resources Kathleen Kilpatrick acknowledged the preservation groups present, including Journey Through Hollister Ground Preservation Virginia, Piedmont Environmental Council, Land Trust of Virginia, Mosby Heritage Area Association, Outlands Plantation, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

Kilpatrick’s boss, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Dumeneczh, named three “Ev,” the three reasons he likes to talk about historic preservation: the education benefit of people seeing and feeling history; the environmental benefit of saving open space; and the economic advantage of heritage tourism, which brings in visitors who tend to stay longer and spend twice as much as other tourists.

Governor McDonnell said, “We publicly commit ourselves to protecting these battlefields as a permanent legacy to the Sesquicentennial.”

The preservation tools he cited included the Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the only such state fund in the country, and the federal transportation enhancement grants program, which provides matching grants of $1.5 million per year for Virginia land acquisition to encourage tourism.

As a national organization, the Civil War Trust has preserved over 32,000 acres on 115 sites across 20 states, Trust President Jim Lighthizer said.

He called McDonnell “the leader, when it comes to battlefield preservation, of all the governors that I’ve worked with in the United States,” joking, “I’m from Maryland, so it pains me to say that.”

Effectively, the Gettysburg Campaign began on June 19, 1863, at the Battle of Brandy Station. Hall explained, as Confederate cavalry screened the movement of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia behind the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

North of Brandy Station, at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, Confederate cavalry from penetrating the nearby gap and learning of Lee’s movement northward. Battles were fought from June 17 to July 21 along Ashby Gap Turnpike in Loudoun County, the modern U.S. Route 50.

The June 19 Battle of Middleburg saw two brigades of Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry fight a delaying action to hold off Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton’s cavalry along the turnpike at Mount Defiance.

Although Stuart’s men withdrew after their flank was turned, J.E.B. Stuart himself did not. As one historian has said — they kept the Union cavalry in the dark about Lee’s movements.

From June 2012 Civil War News

May Meeting
By Mark Matranga

On May 18th Brian Holden Reid spoke to the 71th regular meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on “Strategy.” Reid took as his guiding point Liddell Hart’s definition of that term: the art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy. Those who ask why it took so long to defeat the confederacy do not appreciate the geographic scope and intensity of a conflict wherein there were 149 general engagements and 2,002 lesser battles. But although the north had overwhelming financial, industrial, and economic resources and a greater population, its victory was not predestined. For the north, the structure of government was in jeopardy; success in the conduct of the war became a political issue and therefore matter of strategy. The Confederacy was not involved, whereas the government sought to exclude such intervention.

The “bedrock” of northern grand strategy was the blockade. In contrast to those who feel that the blockade was ineffective, Reid held argued that it was crucial. While not totally successful, the blockade set the conditions for eventual union victory. The blockade and amphibious operations on the southern coast, the capture of New Orleans and the navy’s advance up the Mississippi Valley all brought great benefit to the north. Although an implicit recognition of the southern strategy, Confederate and Union leaders did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

The government’s initial purpose was to restore the union. This was consonant with the Anaconda design which insulated the civilians and excluded destruction of private property. But as the war continued, debate began on whether to increase the level of violence. McClellan’s view in mid-1862, that the war for the union and should be fought according to the “highest principles of Christian civilization,” became increasingly unrealistic and not consistent with the administration’s evolving position on emancipation. This view also reduced the moral force of the union’s cause abroad and especially in Great Britain before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

The grand strategy of the confederacy was complicated in that it could not effectively define its borders. These were not self-evident— a natural border ran along the Ohio but otherwise it was amorphous. Adopting a “trading space for time” strategy was difficult to execute with over established borders and a loyal population, and was a dangerous policy as losing territory placed stress on the slave system. A purely defensive strategy did not suit the confederacy’s aims. The departmental system created the need to garrison large areas and diffused confederate power. Thus the confederacy took the war to the enemy. But the south pursued uncoordinated counteroffensives which did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

Last, Reid took up the “self-imposed” embargo on its cotton crop. This he considered a “monumental miscalculation.” When Yancey told the Unionists in the war. Yet we would defy anyone who claims history is “boring” to say that a Holden lecture is not both lively and interesting in a way that even defies anyone who claims his speech to an English audience, he did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

Brian Holden Reid

On May 18th Brian Holden Reid spoke to the 71th regular meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on “Strategy.” Reid took as his guiding point Liddell Hart’s definition of that term: the art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy. Those who ask why it took so long to defeat the confederacy do not appreciate the geographic scope and intensity of a conflict wherein there were 149 general engagements and 2,002 lesser battles. But although the north had overwhelming financial, industrial, and economic resources and a greater population, its victory was not predestined. For the north, the structure of government was in jeopardy; success in the conduct of the war became a political issue and therefore matter of strategy. The Confederacy was not involved, whereas the government sought to exclude such intervention.

The “bedrock” of northern grand strategy was the blockade. In contrast to those who feel that the blockade was ineffective, Reid held argued that it was crucial. While not totally successful, the blockade set the conditions for eventual union victory. The blockade and amphibious operations on the southern coast, the capture of New Orleans and the navy’s advance up the Mississippi Valley all brought great benefit to the north. Although an implicit recognition of the southern strategy, Confederate and Union leaders did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

The government’s initial purpose was to restore the union. This was consonant with the Anaconda design which insulated the civilians and excluded destruction of private property. But as the war continued, debate began on whether to increase the level of violence. McClellan’s view in mid-1862, that the war for the union and should be fought according to the “highest principles of Christian civilization,” became increasingly unrealistic and not consistent with the administration’s evolving position on emancipation. This view also reduced the moral force of the union’s cause abroad and especially in Great Britain before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

The grand strategy of the confederacy was complicated in that it could not effectively define its borders. These were not self-evident—a natural border ran along the Ohio but otherwise it was amorphous. Adopting a “trading space for time” strategy was difficult to execute with over established borders and a loyal population, and was a dangerous policy as losing territory placed stress on the slave system. A purely defensive strategy did not suit the confederacy’s aims. The departmental system created the need to garrison large areas and diffused confederate power. Thus the confederacy took the war to the enemy. But the south pursued uncoordinated counteroffensives which did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

Last, Reid took up the “self-imposed” embargo on its cotton crop. This he considered a “monumental miscalculation.” When Yancey told the Unionists in the war. Yet we would defy anyone who claims history is “boring” to say that a Holden lecture is not both lively and interesting in a way that even defies anyone who claims his speech to an English audience, he did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.
Virginia Helps CW Trust to Finance Middleburg Land Buy
By Scott C. Boyd

MIDDLETOWN, Va. — "It’s more than about just preserving five acres today, it’s about the history and what we can learn from it. It leads you forward," Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell said on May 9 as he announced a $432,000 grant to help the Civil War Trust purchase and preserve Mount Defiance near Middleburg.

The significance of this ground to the Gettysburg Campaign is enormous," historian Clerk B. "Bob" Hall said at the news conference. "Mount Defiance is properly understood as one of the inaugural actions of the war’s threshold campaign - Gettysburg." The Trust is paying $540,000, with the deal set to close on May 31, according to Policy and Communications Director Jim Campi. The funding comes from the state grant, $54,000 the Trust is applying for from the American Battlefield Protection Program’s Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program, and $540,000 to be raised by The Trust.

The Trust got an early start on its share of the funding when Middleburg philanthropist and Mosby Heritage Area Association President John D. Dunbar and his wife Elaine contributed $10,000.

The plan is for The Trust to purchase the property, which is on Route 50, place a permanent conservation easement on it and eventually give it to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NVRPA).

The NVRPA is a regional organization that has preserved more than 10,000 acres. It administers 35 parks and related facilities, including Ball’s Bluff Battlefield Regional Park, Mosby Heritage Park and Aldie Mill Historic Park.

"Mount Defiance is going to be a wonderful addition to our inventory of historic properties," NVRPA Executive Director Paul Gilbert said.

The five acres straddle two counties - 2.8 acres, assessed at $592,100, are in Fauquier County while 2.2 acres, assessed at $39,300, are in Loudoun County. The Trust said the landscape is largely undisturbed. An antebellum manor house turned into a tavern, a blacksmith’s cottage and blacksmith’s shop are hand-to-hand battle took place on the tract. ... A host of state and local officials attended the news conference at the National Sporting Library and Museum in Middleburg. Virginia Director of Historic Resources Kathleen Kilpatrick acknowledged the preservation groups present, including Journey Through Hollistrong Ground Preservation Virginia, Piedmont Environmental Council, Land Trust of Virginia, Mosby Heritage Area Association, Outland’s Plantation, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association and the Bull Run Civil War Round Table.

Kilpatrick’s boss, Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Doug Domench, described three “Es,” the three reasons he likes to talk about historic preservation: the education benefit of people seeing and feeling history; the environmental benefit of saving open space; and the economic advantage of heritage tourism, which brings in visitors who tend to stay longer and spend twice as much as other tourists.

Governor McDonnell said, “We publicly commit ourselves to protecting these battlefields as a permanent legacy to the Sesquicentennial.”

The preservation tools he cited included the Virginia Civil War Sites Preservation Fund, the only such state fund in the country, and the federal transportation enhancement grants program, which provides matching grants of $1.5 million per year for Virginia land acquisition to encourage tourism.

As a national organization, the Civil War Trust has preserved over 32,000 acres on 115 sites across 20 states, Trust President Jim Lighthizer said. He called McDonnell “the leader, when it comes to battlefield preservation, of all the governors that I’ve worked with in the United States,” joking, “I’m from Maryland, so it pains me to say that.”

Effectively, the Gettysburg Campaign began on June 19, 1863, at the Battle of Brandy Station, Hall explained, as Confederate cavalry screened the movement of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia behind the Blue Ridge Mountains through the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

North of Brandy Station, at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, Confederate cavalry from the Peninsula campaign from the Peninsula campaign in Northern Virginia, screened the advance of the Army of the Potomac, Hall explained, as Confederate cavalry screened the movement of Gen. Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia behind the Blue Ridge Mountains through the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland and Pennsylvania.

The June 19 Battle of Middleburg saw two brigades of Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry fight a delaying action to hold off Brig. Gen. Alfred Pleasonton’s cavalry along the turnpike at Mount Defiance.

Although Stuart’s men withdrew after their flank was turned, “J.E.B. Stuart did his job,” Hall said – they kept the Union cavalry in the dark about Lee’s movements...

On May 18th Brian Holden Reid spoke to the 71th regular meeting of the Chicago Civil War Round Table on “Strategy.” Reid took as his guiding point Liddell Hart’s definition of that term: the art of distributing and applying military means to fulfill the ends of policy. Those who ask why it took so long to defeat the confederacy do not appreciate the geographic scope and intensity of a conflict wherein there were 149 general engagements and 2,002 lesser battles, but 'though the north had overwhelming financial, industrial, and economic resources and a greater population, its victory was not predestined. For the north, the structure of government was in jeopardy; success in the conduct of the war became a political issue and therefore matter of strategy. The Confederacy sought to exclude such intervention.

The “bedrock” of northern grand strategy was the blockade. In contrast to those who feel that the blockade was ineffective, Reid held argued that it was crucial. While not totally successful, the blockade set the conditions for eventual Union victory. The blockade and amphibious operations on the southern coast, this defense of New Orleans and the navy’s advance up the Mississippi Valley all brought great benefit to the north. Although an implicit recognition of the southern confederacy, Great Britain acknowledged the blockade’s legitimacy. The blockade caused hyperinflation and a sharp drop in the Confederate economy. The blockade was the highest principle of common civilization, became increasingly unrealistic and not consistent with the administration’s evolving position on emancipation. This view also reduced the moral force of the union’s cause abroad and especially in Great Britain before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued.

The grand strategy of the confederacy was complicated in that it could not effectively define its borders. These were not self-evident—a natural border ran along the Ohio but otherwise it was amorphous. Adopting a “trading space for time” strategy was difficult to execute with the established border and a loyal population, and was a dangerous policy as losing territory placed stress on the slave system. A purely defensive strategy did not suit the confederacy’s aims. The departmental system created the need to garrison large areas and diffused confederate power. Thus the confederacy took the war to the enemy. But the south pursued uncoordinated counteroffensives which did not work out a fundamentally sound grand strategy.

Last, Reid took up the “self-imposed” embargo on its cotton crop. This he considered “a monumental miscalculation.” When Yancey revealed the virtues of slavery in a speech to an English audience, he virtually guaranteed Great Britain’s neutrality.

Dr. Reid provided an erudite synthesis of the strategic challenges facing the antagonists in the war. Yet we would defy anyone who claims history is ‘boring’ to say that a Holden Reid lecture is not both lively and extremely informative.
The Stephen A. Douglas Association will hold its annual memorial ceremony and luncheon on June 2nd. The luncheon will start at noon at the Union League Club and will feature a talk by Bob Girardi on "The Little Giant and the Big War." Cost is $40 per person. Contact Dave Richert at drichert@earthlink.net for more details.

On June 16th, The Military History Education Group will host its "14th Annual Summer Conference" at Yoder’s in Arthur, IL. Cost is $55 per person, which includes the four presentations and lunch. Phone (217) 578-2262 for more details.

On June 6th, The Du Page County Historical Museum will speak on "Chicagoland at War." On June 9th-10th, Kenosha Civil War Museum will sponsor a "Military History" tour. The Du Page County Historical Museum is sponsoring a "War Cemetery tour" at Canton Cemetery. The Du Page County Historical Museum is sponsoring a "Military History" tour. The Du Page County Historical Museum is sponsoring a "War Cemetery tour" at Canton Cemetery.

Check the Announcements section of the CWRT’s website for additional coming events.

**Upcoming Civil War Events**

- June 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual Banquet. Craig Symonds on "Joe Johnston"
- June 2nd, Elk Grove Village Museum: Civil War Days, featuring the Battlefield Balladiers
- June 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dennis Frye on "September Suspense"
- June 9th-10th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Annual "Salute to Freedom"
- June 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Fred Redickowicz on "Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville"
- June 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet with Ed Bears speaking on "Personal Milestones along the Way: 50 Years of Civil War Round Tables"
- June 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Dave Powell on "Failure in the Saddle"
- June 24th, Wood Dale Historical Society: "Luncheon with the Generals"

**2013 Tour – Antietam**

The Stephen A. Douglas Association will hold its annual memorial ceremony and luncheon on June 2nd. The luncheon will start at noon at the Union League Club and will feature a talk by Bob Girardi on "The Little Giant and the Big War." Cost is $40 per person. Contact Dave Richert at drichert@earthlink.net for more details.

On June 16th, The Military History Education Group will host its "14th Annual Summer Conference" at Yoder’s in Arthur, IL. Cost is $55 per person, which includes the four presentations and lunch. Phone (217) 578-2262 for more details.

On June 6th, The Du Page County Historical Museum will speak on "Chicagoland at War." On June 9th-10th, Kenosha Civil War Museum will sponsor a "Military History" tour. The Du Page County Historical Museum is sponsoring a "War Cemetery tour" at Canton Cemetery. The Du Page County Historical Museum is sponsoring a "Military History" tour.

**Camp Douglas News!**

The Chicago Park District has approved an archaeological dig at the Camp Douglas site, tentatively scheduled for June 25th-29th. Mike Weeks of the Camp Douglas heritage organization is looking for some help with the dig, specifically, steel fencing, use of a truck for the weekend, and some donations to help cover the insurance costs. Contact Mike at (773) 547-1375 for more details.

**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.

- June 8: Dennis Frye, "September Suspense"
- Sept 14: Tom Schwarz, Nevin's Freeman Address

**712th REGULAR MEETING**

**Dennis Frye**

on "September Suspense: Lincoln’s Union in Peril"

Friday, June 8

**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: Sliced Roast Sirloin, Baked Salmon

Call by Wednesday June 6

**Denny Frye**

on "September Suspense: Lincoln’s Union in Peril"

By September, 1862, the United States had entered the 18th month of its Civil War. General Robert E. Lee’s Confederate army had invaded the north, the Union cause seemed at a standstill, and many observers wondered whether the north would begin to question if the bloodshed was worth the cause. In Dennis Frye’s new book September Suspense, he examines just how fragile the national bond had become in the autumn of 1862. Frye’s June talk to the CWRT will be based on that book. Dennis E. Frye is the Chief Historian at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. Dennis served as an Associate Producer for the Civil War movie Gods and Generals, during which he recruited and coordinated nearly 3,000 re-enactors for the film. Dennis also is one of the nation’s leading Civil War battlefield preservationists. He is co-founder and first president of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, and he is co-founder and a former president of today’s Civil War Preservation Trust, where he helped save battlefields in twelve states. Dennis is a tour guide in demand, leading tours for organizations such as the Smithsonian, National Geographic, numerous colleges and universities, and Civil War Round Tables. Dennis also is a well-known author, with 77 articles and six books. His latest books are September Suspense, Antietam Revealed and Harpers Ferry Under Fire. Dennis has written for prestigious Civil War magazines such as Civil War Times Illustrated, America’s Civil War, Blue & Gray Magazine, North and South Magazine, and Hallowed Ground, and is a guest contributor to the Washington Post.

Dennis grew up near Antietam. He currently resides near the battlefield in Maryland, and he and his wife Sylvia have restored the home that was used by General Burnside as his post-Antietam headquarters.