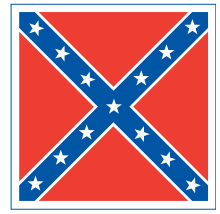


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March 2013



719th REGULAR MEETING

Leslie Goddard

as

“Mary Chesnut”

★★★★★

Friday, March 8

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Pepper Steak.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Mar. 6, 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 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Leslie Goddard on “Mary Chesnut”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Daughter of a wealthy planter and wife of a top presidential aide, Mary Chesnut witnessed firsthand many key events in the South during the Civil War, recording them in a diary considered one of the most compelling personal accounts of the war. In this first-person portrayal, Chesnut reads from her journal, sharing stories of the events unfolding around her and her often surprising perspectives on race, political power, and social status. Small wonder her journal has been called “the most famous war diary of a Southern woman” and “one of the best windows we have into southern society during the American Civil War.”

With experience as a historian, actor, and museum teacher, Leslie Goddard brings a unique perspective to her history presentations.

Trained as a historian, Leslie earned a Ph.D. from Northwest



Leslie Goddard

ern University, specializing in U.S. cultural history, American studies, and women’s history. She also holds both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in theater and has been working in the field of museum interpretation for ten years. Her programs combine her experience as a teacher and actor with her background as a historian and researcher.



Goddard writes and lectures frequently on American history, with particular expertise

in the areas of women’s history and Chicago cultural history. She has presented numerous lectures and presentations for museums, libraries, community centers, civic organizations, and civil war round tables. Leslie is the spouse of past CWRT president Bruce Allardice, and currently serves as assistant secretary of the CWRT of Chicago.

Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

CW Trust Contracts For 61 Brandy Station Acres; Must Raise \$3.6 Million

by Scott C. Boyd

BRANDY STATION, VA—The Civil War Trust announced Dec. 20 it has a contract to buy 61 acres on historic Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station for \$3.6 million. The Trust has until June 7 to raise the money and close the sale, two days before the battle's sesquicentennial.

The land at the crest of the southern end of Fleetwood Hill is the "crown jewel" of the Brandy Station battlefield, according to battle historian and Brandy Station Foundation co-founder Clark B. "Bud" Hall. It includes the site of Confederate commanding general J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters for the battle.

"Protection of this property at the epicenter of the Brandy Station battlefield has been a goal of the preservation community for more than three decades," said Trust President James Lighthizer in announcing the contract.

The Trust owns 878 acres of the Brandy Station Battlefield that are open to the public with signage, walking trails and a driving tour.

Unlike most Trust land purchases, this recent one became public before the Trust board had officially voted to approve the deal.

"Typically we wait until the board approves a transaction," said Trust Director of Policy and Communications Jim Campi. "However, the news of it being under contract was leaked to the Culpeper paper, so it came out sooner than anticipated." Campi said the Trust's board will make a formal decision on the purchase at its March meeting.

The Trust hopes to raise the money through \$1.6 million in government grants and \$2 million from private donors, according to Campi. "We need everybody involved with this deal. It's a big number in a tight economy," he said....

"The key is to raise \$2 million in private sector money," he said. "Bud Hall has taken the lead in helping us identify big donors to help us get to that \$2 million goal."

Campi said, "We are concerned about the big amount of money that needs to be raised in a short amount of time." While being confident that Trust members "are going to step up like they always have," he said the Trust hopes a broader group will get involved as well.

"Any help we can get from the Civil War community would be appreciated," Campi said.

"It's a steep uphill climb to get that \$3.6 million by the sesquicentennial anniversary. We're committed to doing our best to get there."

The Trust plans a Fleetwood Hill Appeal mass mailing in February or March to initiate the public fundraising campaign....

The Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863, was the largest cavalry battle in the Civil War with 18,456 cavalry from both sides and an additional 3,000 Union infantry engaged. It was the opening phase of the Gettysburg Campaign, taking place just three weeks before the battle. In late July Confederates retreating from Gettysburg camped at Brandy Station.

"Fleetwood Hill is without question the most fought over, camped upon and marched over real estate in the entire United States," Hall wrote in a monograph describing the Battle

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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.

of Brandy Station and Fleetwood Hill's role in the Union Army winter encampment of 1863-1864. The army left on May 4 for the Overland Campaign.

Hall said the hill was of strategic importance because artillery placed there controlled five important road junctions that converged in Brandy Station village three quarters of a mile away. And the Orange and Alexandria Railroad passed the southern base of the hill.

"Although it is most closely associated with the climactic fighting of June 9, 1863, there were, in fact, 21 separate military actions on Fleetwood Hill during the Civil War — far more than any other battle venue in this country," Hall wrote.

Said Hall about the pending purchase, "I could not possibly be more excited."

Donations to the Fleetwood Hill Appeal and information about the battlefield can be found at the Trust's website: www.civilwar.org/battlefields/brandystation/brandystation-2013/

(February/March 2013 Civil War News)

February Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's own **Mary Abroe** addressed our 718th meeting on February 8o, 2013, presenting the life of Charles H. Grosvenor, commander of the 18th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and head of the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park Commission. A Connecticut native whose family moved to Athens County, Ohio, when he was a boy, he embarked on a career in the law. When the war came, he enlisted in the army he enlisted. An ardent and "unreconstructed unionist" he immediately identified southerners as secessionist; with regard to these recalcitrant rebels, he wrote, "we will give them thunder."

Grosvenor joined the 18th in the fall of 1861 and spent his early time with the regiment recruiting – he missed the early battles of what would become the Army of the Cumberland. His service was punctuated with a court martial charge the record of which is sketchy. Grosvenor was promoted to Lt. Colonel in the spring of 1863.

The height of Grosvenor's military service came at Chickamauga on September 29, 1863. Assigned to Colonel Stanley's Brigade, the 18th participated in the fighting along the Lafayette Road. As the battle progressed, the unit was moved to the rear of the Snodgrass Cabin in reserve on Horseshoe Ridge. When the breakthrough under Longstreet came, the 18th made several charges toward what is now called 'Hill One' on the Ridge where its monument now stands.

Grosvenor was cited for exemplary behavior during this engagement by his brigade commander, Stanley, who noted his "gallant conduct" and by Brigadier General John Beatty, who wrote of his "determined courage" on Horseshoe Ridge. Colonel Stoughton of the 11th Michigan spoke of Grosvenor's "great coolness and gallantry in the thickest of fight," and his regimental surgeon wrote home in praise of the "Athens Boys" who "did some hard fighting" but who nonetheless behaved admirably and "escaped miraculously" from the battle.

Grosvenor stayed with his regiment until the end of the war, becoming its brigade commander. The unit fought with General Thomas at the Battle of Nashville in December 1864, where he witnessed the death of his beloved cousin, Capt. Ebenezer Grosvenor. After pursuing the defeated confederates into Alabama, the 18th again found itself in the Gateway City. Grosvenor participated in the initial phase of the Atlanta Campaign in May 1864 but was compelled to travel home when his young daughter took ill and died. His last post found him in Augusta, Georgia where he assumed the duties of Provost Marshall in that defeated community.

His war over, Grosvenor returned to Athens and resumed his legal and political career. He served in the Ohio House of Representatives beginning in the mid-1870's and was elected to Congress from the 11th District numerous times from the mid-1880's, retiring from the House

in 1907. Like many war veterans, he participated in the post bellum national culture of reconciliation, and embraced reunions with his former adversaries. But he was not totally infused by this spirit. At Chattanooga on the 25th Anniversary of the battle, Grosvenor, spoke of the ultimate meaning of the war, saying of the war: "Its mighty edict was written on a hundred battlefields. The voters were columns of troops, the ballots were bullets and the bayonets and the sabers and the fixed ammunition of mighty armies." The core issue, the permanence of the union, was decided by the war: "The war legislated; it is the law of our country that the union is perpetual."

In collaboration with fellow veteran Henry Boynton, Grosvenor was instrumental in passing the legislation creating the Chickamauga-Chattanooga Military Park, the first national historical park, and in securing federal funding for it and other battlefield parks. In 1910, he was appointed Chairman of the Military Park Commission and hosted the 50th Anniversary of the battle. Grosvenor died in Athens in 1917. Ms. Abroe praises his nationalism and determination to memorialize his generation's experience. He passed through the 'fiery trial' of the heat and blood of a Georgia battlefield and was set apart by that experience. To the nation's gratitude, he used that experience to engage veterans and the nation in securing his heritage, and ours.

GRAPESHOT



On March 22-23 Kennesaw State University in Georgia, in conjunction with the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, will hold a symposium on “New Interpretations of the Civil War.” The speakers will include historians Larry Daniel, Richard McMurry, Brian Steel Wills, and our own **Larry Hewitt**, who will speak on “Port Hudson: The Most Photographed Battlefield of the Civil War.” For more information, visit www.kennesaw.edu/civilwarera.

On Mar. 1st, at the Illinois Historical Society’s symposium in Springfield, **Rob Girardi** will speak on “Illinois Soldiers Respond to Emancipation.”

On Mar. 12th, **Leslie Goddard** will present “Civil War Quilts” at the Lakeside Quilting Guild. On Mar. 21st, at the North Shore Senior Center, **Leslie** will present “Mary Chesnut.”

On March 16th **Mary Abroe** will speak on “Observing the Civil War Centennial: Rhetoric and Reality of a Commemoration” at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, starting at 1:00 p.m. Visit the museum website, www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details on this and other programs.

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 CD format. For pricing and a lecture list, please 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

Feb. 28th-Mar. 2nd, Illinois History symposium, Springfield: theme of “Illinois and Emancipation”

Mar. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Rob Girardi** on “The Murder of General William ‘Bull’ Nelson”

Mar. 6th, Moraine Valley Community College: Crey Millsap-Spears presents “Sophia Peabody Hawthorne”

Mar. 6th, Lake County CWRT: Dave Oberg, “The Swede Battery”

Mar. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Dana Hales on “Weapons of Illinois Regiments”

Mar. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Lance Herdegen on “The Iron Brigade”

Mar. 8th, Kenosha CW Museum: Doug Dammann on “Freeman Conner: The Chicago Colonel of the 44th New York”

Mar. 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Charlie Banks on “U.S. Military Railroads”

Mar. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Jon Sebastian** on “DuPage County in the Civil War”

Mar. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Maria Bakalis on “Mary Lincoln: After the Assassination”

Mar. 28th, South Suburban CWRT: **Bruce Allardice** on “Baseball and the Civil War”

2013 Tour – Antietam, May 1-5

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*.

March 8: Leslie Goddard, “Mary Chesnut”

April 12: John Fitzpatrick, ““There is no fail here.” President Lincoln at Gettysburg”

May 10: Ethan Rafuse, “Lee and Gettysburg”

June 14: Timothy B. Smith, “Corinth”

Sept. 13: John Michael Priest, “South Mountain”

Oct. 11: William Cooper, “We Have the War Upon Us”

Nov. 8: Lawrence Hewitt, Nevins-Freeman Address

Dec. 13: Kevin Weddle, “Lincoln’s Tragic Admiral”

Grayslake Museum to Host Lincoln Exhibit

The Grayslake Heritage Center and Museum, 164 Hawley Street, will be one of eleven museums in the nation to host a nationally traveling exhibition created by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. *Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America* features high quality reproductions related to the life of our 16th President, with proceeds aiding in the preservation and restoration of the originals.

Flag of the 122nd Restored

On Dec. 31st, a ceremony was held in Carlville to celebrate the restoration of the flag of the 122nd Illinois Infantry. The 122nd was raised in Macoupin County, and saw action at Tupelo, Nashville and Mobile. Macoupin County CWRT members spearheaded a drive that raised the \$34,000 needed for the restoration. The flag will hang in the county courthouse.



150 YEARS AGO – MARCH 1863



- 2nd:** Congress rejects a call by President Lincoln to adopt a standard railroad gauge of 5 feet and adopts the 4 foot, 8 and one-half inch gauge. It is sometimes called the Congressional gauge.
- 3rd:** The Conscription Act (National Enrollment Act of 1863) is signed into law by President Lincoln. Congress requires quotas of draftees by state, but allows wealthy Americans the right to buy their way out of service for \$300.00.
- 5th:** Battle of Spring Hill. Confederate Cavalry under Earl Van Dorn and Nathan Bedford Forrest drive Union Cavalry off on the 4th, then surround the remaining infantry.
- 11th:** Ulysses S. Grant renewed his efforts to reach Vicksburg when he tried to push gunboats past Fort Pemberton, near Greenwood.
- 14th:** Admiral David Farragut pushes his command vessel, the Hartford, past Port Hudson, but Confederate fire seriously damages three other vessels.
- 16th:** Ulysses S. Grant ends his Yazoo Pass expedition, but orders William Tecumseh Sherman to try Steele's Bayou again.
- 17th:** Battle of Kelly's Ford. Federal cavalry under William Averell crossed the ford of the Rappahannock River then ran into a Rebel line. After brief but heavy fighting, the Yankees withdrew that afternoon. Major John "The Gallant" Pelham [CS] was killed in this battle.
- 21st:** Union Major General Edwin Vose Sumner dies in Syracuse, NY of natural causes, while on his way to assume command of the Department of Missouri.
- 25th:** Ambrose Burnside ordered to command the Department of the Ohio
- 29th:** Stymied in his attempt to reach Vicksburg on the east bank of the Mississippi, Grant orders General John McClernand to march south on the west bank to Miliken's Bend.

New Companion App for *The Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide*

A new companion app for *The Complete Civil War Road Trip Guide*, a book written by CWRT member (and Secretary) Mike Weeks, will be available at the IStore by early March. The app provides GPS driving directions to 444 Civil War sites and helps users construct their own Civil War road trip based on the sites in the book. For more information, see Mike's website at www.civilwarroadtrip.com.

New book on the 89th Illinois

After 20 years of research and writing, Quincy resident Phil Reyburn has completed and published a regimental history entitled, "Clear the Track: A History of the Eighty-ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, The Railroad Regiment." The regiment was organized and promoted by the railroads centered in Chicago. William Fox listed the 89th among the "Three Hundred Fighting Regiments" of the war.

Unlike many other regiments, the men of the 89th never compiled their own history. This book is the first definitive history of the regiment. Our late member Steve Stewart helped Phil with research for the book.

Currently, the book is available online at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.



Lincoln Play Premiering at Royal George Theater

Eighty-Eight Entertainment presents the Chicago Premiere of Hershey Felder's riveting new production, **AN AMERICAN STORY for ACTOR AND ORCHESTRA**, which tells the story of Abraham Lincoln's last day, in a limited engagement at The Royal George Theatre, 1641 North Halsted, previewing Friday, March 8, 2013 and opening Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. The Chicago Premiere follows successful tryout productions in Los Angeles and San Diego.

AN AMERICAN STORY features an original book and score by Felder and will be performed with a live orchestra. Drawing upon the songs of great American composer Stephen Foster (Beautiful Dreamer, My Old Kentucky Home, and Oh Susanna), as well as President Lincoln's own

words, AN AMERICAN STORY is based on true events as seen through the eyes of a simple young man who suddenly found himself at the center of world history.

The talented Hershey Felder is familiar to Chicago theater fans for his production of *George Gershwin Alone* and other works.



New book on Chicagoan's Civil War

Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate, is the edited diary of Chicago millionaire Charles F. Gunther. Charles F. Gunther is a Yankee ice peddler who is trapped in the South at the outbreak of the war, and takes a job on the southern steamboat Rose Douglas. Presented here are two years of diaries of Gunther's experiences working on the Rose Douglas, ferrying Confederate troops and supplies. After the war, Gunther makes a fortune in a candy business located across the street from Marshall Field's in Chicago, becomes a premier collector and preserver of Civil War artifacts and Lincoln memorabilia, endows the Chicago History Museum with its Civil War collection, and goes on to hold political office as an alderman and City Treasurer of Chicago.

Edited by Wayne Wolf and **Bruce Allardice**, the book is available for order online at State House Press (www.tamupress.com), Amazon.com, and Barnes & Noble.