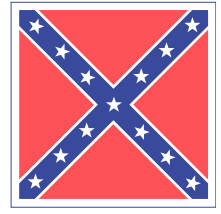


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

October 2014



734th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, October 10th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$49 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Chicken
Aegean or Baked
Tilapia*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, October 8, 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.

Mark Bradley

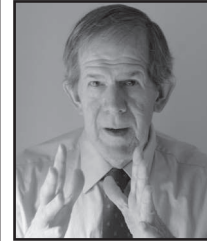
on

When East Meets West: Joe Hooker, O. O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Union generals Joseph Hooker and Oliver O. Howard were the Civil War's true Odd Couple. "Fighting Joe" Hooker was brash, blustering, and profane, and he had a reputation as a hard-drinking ladies' man. Howard, on the other hand, was a soft-spoken teetotaler whose devoutness had earned him the sobriquet, "the Christian Soldier." Fate thrust these two very different men together in the spring of 1863, when Howard assumed command of the XI Corps under Hooker, the commander of the Army of the Potomac. In the Battle of Chancellorsville, Howard's XI Corps was routed, paving the way for Confederate general Robert E. Lee's greatest victory. Hooker blamed Howard for the defeat at Chancellorsville and never forgave him. Just two months later, Hooker dared President Abraham Lincoln to replace him while he was pursuing Lee's army into Pennsylvania and promptly lost his command. A few days after that, Howard's XI Corps was routed yet again, this time through the streets of Gettysburg. In July 1863, the prospects for Hooker and Howard appeared bleak indeed.

That fall, however, Hooker received



Mark Bradley

command of two corps from the Army of the Potomac being sent to rescue the Union Army of the Cumberland, which was trapped at Chattanooga, Tennessee, after suffering a humiliating defeat in the Battle of Chickamauga. One of the units in Hooker's command happened to be Howard's XI Corps. In effect, the transfer provided Hooker and Howard with a fresh start and an opportunity for advancement in the Union armies of the Western Theater.

On Oct. 10th historian Mark Bradley will discuss how these two generals adapted to their new situation and how they exploited their opportunities in the West, particularly in the Atlanta Campaign. He will also note how their experiences underscore the differences between the war in the East and the West.

Mark Bradley is a historian with the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, DC. He received his BA in History from North Carolina State University and his MA and PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His publications include Last Stand In The Carolinas: The Battle Of Bentonville, This Astounding Close: The Road To Bennett Place, and Bluecoats And Tar Heels: Soldiers And Civilians In Reconstruction North Carolina.



Chancellorsville Project Includes Preserving Land

By Scott C. Boyd
(September 2014 Civil War News)

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, Va. - The Spotsylvania Planning Commission on Aug. 6 unanimously approved a development project that includes a proffer to preserve 420 acres of the Chancellorsville battlefield where Confederate forces led by Lt. General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson smashed the Union 11th Corps in a surprise flank attack on May 2, 1863.

The project is on the agenda for final approval at the Sept. 9 Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors meeting.

The "Legends of Chancellorsville" project by local developer The Silver Companies would rezone 1,097.5 acres of the so-called Binns Tract to allow 218 homes to be built on two-acre lots. Current zoning only permits 10 homes to be built on the property "by right."

A proffer by the developer includes transferring 420 acres of the property to the Civil War Trust for "preservation in perpetuity."

The 420 acres are within the Chancellorsville battlefield core area as defined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, giving it the highest priority for preservation.

Silver Companies plans to sell an additional 44.27 acres of adjacent land within the congressionally-designated boundary of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park to the Civil War Trust for eventual conveyance to the National Park

Service (NPS), bringing the total battlefield acreage preserved to 464.

The NPS can only acquire land that is already within the designated boundary of a battlefield.

The Binns Tract is on state Route 3 west of Fredericksburg and just a little west of the NPS Chancellorsville Visitor Center. It is north of Route 3 and adjacent to the Wagner Tract, preserved in 2010 by the Trust and the Commonwealth.

As reported in the Fredericksburg newspaper, The Free Lance-Star, 17 people spoke at the Aug. 6 planning commission hearing about the Legends project. Eleven - all nearby property owners - were opposed. The six who spoke in support included members of historic preservation groups.

After a Feb. 17 community meeting sponsored by the developer, the newspaper reported that about 90 local landowners attended and none appeared to support the project, with dozens raising their hands to express opposition.

The Silver Companies has done quite a bit," local NPS superintendent Lucy Lawliss told Civil War News. "All of the things that we were concerned around, they responded to." She said, "The plan that was put forward, for the most part, reflects the conversations we had with them, as with the Trust.

Mark Coombs of the Civil War Trust emailed members after the

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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.

August vote that "The positive and proactive way in which the preservation community and the Silver Companies have worked together to craft - and now champion - the 'Legends of Chancellorsville' proposal proved a key factor for the Planning Commission."

If the rezoning is approved, Lawliss said it would mark "the beginnings of a land use change in a very rural part of the county" by increasing the density and type of land use out into an area that is not currently seen that way in the county's comprehensive plan.

She questioned, "Once that parcel is rezoned, then what's to stop the next parcels around it? How far is all this going?"

The issue ultimately becomes a political question for county residents and their elected representatives to decide, Lawliss said.

The developer's "Legends of Chancellorsville" website is www.spotsylvaniarezoning.com

September Meeting

By Brice Allardice

On Sept. 14th Frank Varney spoke to the CWRT about his new book, "General Grant and the Rewriting of History." The focus of his presentation was how Grant's memoirs, as well as wartime communications, dealt unfairly with General William S. Rosecrans, his onetime subordinate. The talk focused on Grant's alleged disobedience of orders at Belmont, false accusations that Rosecrans failed to advance swiftly enough at Iuka, and accusations that Rosecrans and his army were almost helpless after the Battle of Chickamauga.

The following is from an interview of Varney by Savas-Beatie Publishing:

SB: *Why did you decide to write your book on General Grant?*

FV: I was re-reading Grant's memoirs, and realized that some of what he was saying about certain Union generals seemed at odds with things I had seen in other primary sources. So I decided to re-examine his memoirs and compare them with other sources, which discussed the same people and events. I have always been interested in the concept of historical memory – why we remember things the way we do – and thought that perhaps I might find some indications that Grant had misjudged William S. Rosecrans and others. After all, Rosecrans had been involved in a whole string of Union victories – at Iuka, Corinth, and Stones River – and only one apparent defeat, which took place at Chickamauga. It seemed logical to assume that he may have been

a somewhat better general than Grant had painted him to be. In fact, there was much more to the story than I had expected.

SB: *What makes General Grant and the Rewriting of History unique from other books on the same topic?*

FV: There really is no other book that looks at things from this perspective. There are studies of the battles I named before (most of them based on Grant's memories of them), and a single biography of Rosecrans written more than sixty years ago. There are no books, however, which examine them as a unified whole, and none which question Grant's remarks on the subject. Essentially, what Grant said has gotten into the history books to the detriment of the truth in some instances. There are studies of Grant's generalship which are based almost entirely on Grant. Obviously that makes little sense. If we are going to look at someone's ability, it is logical to look at other sources beyond that person's own writings.

SB: *Did anything surprise you during your research?*

FV: I was re-reading Grant's memoirs, and realized that some of what he was saying about certain Union generals seemed at odds with things I had seen in other primary sources. So I decided to re-examine his memoirs and compare them with other sources, which discussed the same people and events. I have always been interested in the concept of historical memory – why we remember things the way

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SB: *Ultimately, when a reader puts down this book, what do you want them to come away with?*

FV: I would like them to come away with several things. First, that although Ulysses S. Grant was in fact an outstanding general, he was quite willing to point fingers and to take credit rightfully due to others. Second, that he was very willing to manipulate the truth, including slanting his reports, falsifying the official records of the War Department, committing perjury, and lying in his memoirs. He was also very good at carrying a grudge, and would actively work to bring down those he did not like. Third, that William S. Rosecrans was a far more effective general than we had previously thought, and deserves much more credit than he has received. Finally, thinking history is a straightforward process is not always true; re-examining the primary sources is essential; and relying too heavily on what others have already said is dangerous.

GRAPESHOT



On Oct. 5th, **Leslie Goddard** will speak on “Gone with the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory” at the Winnetka Public Library. Visit www.lesliegoddard.info for more information.

Oct. 4th, the Battlefield Balladeers perform at **Cantigny**, as part of **Cantigny’s annual Civil War reenactment**. Join them for living history displays throughout the grounds. Meet Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, Harriet Tubman, and the common civil war soldier. Tour the Soldiers’ Encampment, listen to Civil War era music, watch Union and Confederate soldiers skirmish, or explore the outstanding museum and grounds at Cantigny. Fun, educational crafts and activities for children and adults alike will be available. For more information, see http://firstdivisionmuseum.org/events/schedule/civil_war_reenactment_schedule.aspx

Bjorn Skaptason will present on “Actions Before Westport” Oct. 16th to the Champaign County CWRT.

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

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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

- Oct. 9th, Lake County CWRT: Frank Crawford on “New Ways to Study the Civil War”
- Oct. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Mark Bradley on “Joe Hooker, O. O. Howard, and the Atlanta Campaign of 1864”
- Oct. 10th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Lee White on “Battle of Altoona Pass”
- Oct. 14th, McHenry County CWRT: Dave Powell on “Failure in the Saddle”
- Oct. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Leslie Goddard on “Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory”. Meeting at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society.
- Oct. 18th, Civil War Days at Dollinger Farm, Channahon, IL
- Oct. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Margaret Humphreys on “The Health Crisis of the Civil War”
- Oct. 23rd, South Suburban CWRT: Brian Conroy on “The US Regular Army in the Civil War”

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.

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*.

Nov. 14: Steve Towne on “Civil War Espionage”

Dec. 12: Jim Ogden, Nevins-Freeman Address

Jan. 9, 2015: John Horn on “George Barnard and the 12th Virginia Infantry”

Feb. 1: Leslie Goddard on “Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory”

March 13: Thomas Huntington on “Searching for George Gordon Meade”

April 10: Michael Burlingame on “The Assassination of President Abraham Lincoln”

May 8: Eric Leonard on “Cartel, Code and Consequences at Andersonville”

June 12: Garry Adelman on “4D Civil War Photography Extravaganza”

James McPherson in Chicago

Author James McPherson will be in the Chicago area next week discussing his new book: *Embattled Rebel: Jefferson Davis as Commander in Chief*. Professor McPherson will speak at the Kenosha Civil War Museum Wednesday, Oct. 8th. On Thursday, Oct. 9th he will speak at the Union League Club of Chicago at 11:30. At 6 p.m. that evening he will be at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop to discuss the book and do a virtual book signing.

150 Years Ago - October 1864

Oct. 4 Moving north along the Western and Atlantic Railroad in an attempt to sever Sherman's supply line, John Bell Hood attacks blockhouses and encampments at Acworth and Moon's Station, GA.

Oct. 5 Battle of Allatoona Pass, GA. Confederates under Samuel French attack entrenched Federals under John Corse protecting the Western and Atlantic Railroad, but are turned back.

Oct. 9 Battle of Tom's Brook, VA. Phil Sheridan ordered his cavalry to attack a detachment of Confederate cavalry that had been harassing his column. After a battle that covered almost 10 miles the Union cavalry stopped, having captured 300 Confederates

Oct. 12 Roger Taney, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, dies

Oct. 13 The 750-man Union garrison of Dalton, GA surrenders to Hood's Confederate army

Oct. 13 Maryland, a border state, abolishes slavery in their new constitution

Oct. 17 General James Longstreet resumes command of his corps after suffering a serious wound at The Wilderness

Oct. 19 Battle of Cedar Creek (Belle Grove). In the last major engagement in the Shenandoah Valley, Jubal Early [CS] defeats Phillip Sheridan [US] in the first of two fairly distinct engagements. During the second engagement, Sheridan arrived and rallied the federals, who rout Early's troops.

Oct. 19 Confederate raid on St. Albans, VT. Confederates from Canada rob banks in this northern state.

Oct. 23 Battle of Westport, MO. Price's Missouri Raid is turned back, in the largest battle fought west of the Mississippi River.

Oct. 26 Battle of Decatur, AL. Hood's Confederate army probes the Union defenses of Decatur, but finds them too strong to attack.

Oct. 27 Battles of the Southside Railroad, Hatcher's Run, and Burgess Mill, near Petersburg, VA. Confederates win some tactical victories, but fail to prevent the Union lines extending further westward.

Oct. 28 Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman, in Gaylesville, AL, decides to return to his field headquarters in Kingston, GA. rather than pursue John Bell Hood into Alabama.

Oct. 31 Nevada becomes the 36th state of the United States

The CWRT in the Past

73 years ago, Oct., 1941: Monroe F. Cockrell spoke on "General Nathan Bedford Forrest"

50 years ago, Oct. 1954: Hartnett T. Kane spoke on "Spies of the Blue and Gray"

25 years ago, Oct. 1979: Robert K. Krick spoke on "E. P. Alexander, Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer"

10 years ago, Oct. 2004: Robert Zaworski spoke on "Diving to the Monitor"

5 years ago, Oct. 2009: Craig Symonds spoke on "The Blockade: A Reassessment"

Restoration of Fleetwood Hill At Brandy Station Begins

By Kathryn Jorgensen

(September 2014 Civil War News)

BRANDY STATION, Va. — With a brick ranch house in its immediate sights, demolition equipment began removing modern intrusions on Fleetwood Hill at Brandy Station battlefield on Aug. 9.

The Civil War Trust, which bought 56 acres including the crest of the hill on the cavalry battlefield for \$3.6 million in August 2013, received major donations beyond the purchase price to pay for the restoration.

The Tony Troilo family lived on the hill for more than 40 years until earlier this summer. The ranch house close to Route 685 had been the family home. Troilo moved into the 7,200-square-foot house on the crest in the late 2007.

According to the Trust, the first phase of restoration is demolition, which was approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, which holds a conservation easement on the property. The contractor is J.K. Wolfrey of Spotsylvania County who has worked with the Trust and National Park Service on projects.

Trust Deputy Director, Communications Mary Koik says there is a 90-day window for work, which weather and other factors can affect. It is expected demolition of the big house will begin in September.

In addition to the two houses, the property includes two in-ground swimming pools, a pool house, detached garage, ornamental landscaping and an asphalt and concrete driveway. A local 4-H club has already taken an aluminum barn for its use.

According to the Trust's project plan the basements and pools will be backfilled and graded to historic contours as closely as possible with the assistance of historical photos. Some trees will be kept and a section of paving off Route 685 will be retained for visitor parking.

Long-term restoration will include replanting some trees on the hill's crest to resemble its wartime appearance. A farming plan for other parts of the property includes a five-year agricultural lease.

The Trust is developing a multi-stop interpretive walking trail it hopes to install next spring. The aim is for visitors to be able to stand on the crest and visualize the battle scene.

More than 18,000 cavalrymen and 3,000 Union infantry fought at Brandy Station, which historians consider the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign.

The epicenter of the fighting was Fleetwood Hill, which overlooked much of the battlefield and served as Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's headquarters.

Battle historian Clark B. "Bud" Hall has called Fleetwood Hill "without question the most fought over, camped upon and marched over real estate in the entire United States." 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. 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," according to Hall.

The land acquisition was accomplished in August 2013, following a \$3.6 million fundraising campaign.

The Civil War Trust credits private gifts and matching grants from the federal Civil War Land Acquisition Grant Program, which is administered by the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's Civil War Sites Preservation Fund. Partners included the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, Journey Through Hallowed Ground and the Brandy Station Foundation.

The Trust has protected more than 1,800 acres at Brandy Station. It opened an interpretive trail in June 2003.

More information is at www.civilwar.org, click "battlefields."