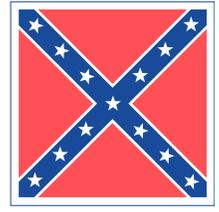


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

February 2015



739th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, February 13th

★★★★★

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 Piccata or Baked Orange Roughy

Please Note:

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

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$25 with validation. More if not validated Other parking is available at 437 N. Orleans.

Leslie Goddard on *Gone With the Wind* and the Construction of Civil War Memory

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Seventy-five years after its blockbuster premiere in 1939, *Gone with the Wind* continues to inspire both passionate devotion and academic criticism. One historian has called it “almost certainly the single most powerful influence on American perceptions of the Civil War.” In this illustrated slide lecture about the history of the movie, Dr. Leslie Goddard will consider both the accuracy of its portrayal of the American Civil War and its lasting influence in shaping popular understanding of Civil War history. What accounts for this film’s widespread – and enduring – popularity among viewers? Do Americans still get their perceptions of the antebellum South from this movie? Does *Gone with the Wind* still matter in scholarly and popular conversations about the Civil War?

Leslie Goddard holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in U.S. history and American studies, as well as a master’s degree in theater. A former museum director, she



Leslie Goddard

is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently serves on the executive board of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. She speaks frequently on topics in history with particular expertise in the areas of Civil War history, women’s history, and Chicago history. Her nationally recognized programs have been presented for hundreds of museums, libraries, senior centers, clubs, and other organizations. Her first person portrayals include Civil War Nurse Clara Barton; Louisa Mae Alcott; Abigail Adams; Amelia Earhart; Bette Davis; Bertha Palmer; Titanic survivor Violet Jessup; Estee Lauder; Mary Pickford; Jackie Kennedy; Jane Austen; and “Below Stairs.” Her lectures include Remembering Marshall Field’s; Chicago’s Sweet Candy History; American Beauty; and Civil War Quilts.



BRANDY STATION, VA. GRAFFITI HOUSE WALLS HAVE STORIES TO TELL

By Nancy Jennis Olds

(January 2015 Civil War News)

BRANDY STATION, Va. — Once dilapidated, almost in danger of collapsing, the Graffiti House in Brandy Station is a captivating building with a fascinating story of hidden history on its walls.

The June 9, 1863, Battle of Brandy Station was fought in the fields close to this house, which was converted into a Confederate hospital.

During the winter of 1863 to 1864, Federal troops occupied the house as the Army of the Potomac settled for the winter in Culpeper County.

The circa 1858 two-story framed house was constructed very close to the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. Now known as the Graffiti House, it serves as headquarters for the Brandy Station Foundation, which purchased it in August 2002, is now in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

The Graffiti House was slated to become a commercial property in 1993 when a variety of pencil, crayon (a stick of colored wax, charcoal, chalk or other material) and charcoal graffiti was found under the layers of paint during renovation.

A worker discovered some writing in charcoal, and the date "1863." The owners, realizing that the home had potential historic value, halted any plans to tear it down.

Early attempts to stabilize the walls with graffiti used joint compound reinforced with nylon tape, not the best material for restorative work. The first-floor walls, which had graffiti, were removed.

The Brandy Station Foundation hired Christopher Mills, an architectural conservator and head of Christopher Mills Conservation LLC of Massachusetts, to undertake

the arduous and painstaking work of removing layers of paint and limewash on second-floor walls.

They were in such poor condition that it required months to stabilize them before any paint removal could begin.

The Graffiti House hasn't given up all its secrets yet. The exciting news is the recent discovery of more graffiti in the bathroom and an adjacent storage area.

Mills's first step is to investigate a historic building to determine if any graffiti might have been produced there. He researches a building and its involvement during the Civil War, such as use as a headquarters or field hospital.

If graffiti is discovered in one part of the building it is likely that there will be more in other areas. The building's use may indicate where the graffiti might be found. A field hospital would generally have graffiti at eye level or within arm's reach of patients in beds.

Steps to detect hidden graffiti include investigating the walls and structure, probing for original plaster behind drywall and taking photos and videos to document the investigation. ...

The Graffiti House was Mills's first opportunity to reveal and preserve Civil War graffiti. The work requires a conservator to gently and carefully remove thin layers of paint, limewash or wallpaper.

Mills applied some of the same techniques that he employed elsewhere, but he had to do so very carefully since the graffiti, the charcoal, pencil and some crayon, are so delicate. "You only have one shot at it," he says.

The tools of the trade involve surgical

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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.

scalpels, dental tools, microscopes to check on the progress of the restoration effort, cotton batting on a stick and a vast assortment of chemicals to carefully remove layers.

Mills said, "You could be concentrating on revealing one word and seven hours goes by in the process."

Conservation work is "expensive and time consuming," Mills says, but what is gratifying to him is that "everyone's voice is heard on the walls," from generals (Gen. Jeb Stuart's signature is there) to privates. "A lot of people knew that they were going to die or potentially die," Mills notes.

Once the graffiti has been successfully uncovered, it has to be protected from pollution and the corrosive effects of being exposed to air. ...

Mills said the Graffiti house is a great project because of the perfect conditions of the surviving graffiti. Some of the charcoal graffiti "looks as fresh as the day it was made," he said. The thrill is uncovering writing and drawings "that haven't been seen since 1863."...

For information about the Graffiti House and Brandy Station Foundation visit call 540-727-7718, email director@brandystationfoundation.com or visit the website.

January Meeting

By Mark Marranga

John Horn addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 738th meeting on January 9, 2015, on "George Bernard and the 12th Virginia Infantry." Bernard was the author of "War Talks of Confederate Veterans" and of the posthumously published "Civil War Talks," which appeared in 2012. A struggling lawyer living in Petersburg and a University of Virginia graduate, Bernard joined a militia company, the 'Petersburg Riflemen' at the time of John Brown's raid in 1859. When war broke out, his company, now part of the Petersburg Battalion, was sent to Norfolk to guard the naval yards. Falling ill, he was discharged in September, 1861 from what now the 12th Virginia Infantry.

Following his discharge and recuperation, Bernard taught school in Greenfield County south of Petersburg. But he soon rejoined the army as third sergeant of the Meherrin Grays, a unit attached to the 12th Virginia, thus permitting him to return to his original unit. He fought with the regiment in the Peninsula, Seven Days, and Second Manassas campaigns, and was wounded and captured at Crampton's Gap on September 14, 1862.

After being exchanged and recuperating he returned to his original unit in 1863. The Petersburg Riflemen were a highly educated unit, which for Horn explains perhaps why Bernard remained an enlisted man throughout his service - a person with Bernard's educational level would have been an officer in a deep south unit, but that was not

so in a unit that produced more officers than any other company in the regiment.

Bernard's unit was with the army in the Chancellorsville and Gettysburg Campaigns and fought through the autumn of 1863. He participated in the Overland Campaign and during the siege of Petersburg. Wounded at Hatcher's Run in February, 1865 and given a 60-day leave, Bernard was unable to reach his unit and did not surrender at Appomattox.

Returning to Petersburg and the law after the war, Bernard fell in with the 'Readjustor' political faction led by General Mahone. Its agenda was to readjust the debt of Commonwealth of Virginia and use the savings for education. The group aligned with Republicans and black voters, which caused Mahone's vilification - he served a term as Senator but lost the race for Governor in 1889, after which the Republicans were suppressed.

Also active in the United Confederate Veterans, Bernard commenced to write articles for publication and to solicit comment from his friends and even former foes. He would then incorporate the comments, and publish the annotated article. This resulted in "War Talks of Confederate Veterans," published in 1892. This book contains articles by Bernard, members of his and other regiments, and Bernard's own comments on the other articles. His ultimate purpose was a regimental history in that style.

A planned second volume

containing articles covering topics not found in "War Talks," disappeared in 1896. Bernard's papers make reference to this manuscript, but it was effectively lost. Horn discovered Bernard when writing his book on the Weldon Railroad and later, when researching the Petersburg Campaign, found references to the second volume in Bernard's papers. He and Hampton Newsome amassed material from newspaper archives, Bernard's notebooks at Duke University, his papers at the Southern Historical Collection and diaries at the University of Virginia, and were prepared to publish when the original manuscript was found in a flea market.

Horn and Newsome edited the manuscript supplemented with their research in "Civil War Talks - The Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans." Horn considers Bernard's best work his writing on the Battle of the Crater where he graphically describes the massacre of black soldiers. He also cites Bernard's comments on Mahone's Brigade at Gettysburg where it suffered significant casualties despite not being engaged directly on the second or third days.

The Round Table appreciates the work Horn has done on Bernard and his "unique brand of history," work which pre-sages the 'round table' approach of discussion of the war's events, in Bernard's case by those who fought it

GRAPESHOT



On Feb. 7th, at the Oakbrook Public Library: **Bruce Allardice** will present "Baseball During the Civil War." On Feb. 19th, at the Canal Corridor Association, Lockport, he'll present "The Ten Worst Civil War Generals." On Feb. 21st, at the Glen Ellyn Historical Society, he'll present "Before the Chicago Cubs: Baseball Comes to the Windy City"

The **Battlefield Balladeers** will perform at the Palatine Public Library, Feb. 15th, at 2 p.m.

At the **Kenosha Civil War Museum**, Friday, February 13th, **Jerry Kowalski** (as General George Thomas) will present "General Thomas and the Battle of Nashville." February 8th, David Powell will speak on "Chickamauga Up Close." February 11 and 25th, their Lincoln Lore Discussion Group meets. Information on museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

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

- Feb. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: **Bruce Allardice** on "Civil War Movies"
- Feb. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Ray Guttendorf on "Edwin M. Stanton"
- Feb. 12th, Lake County CWRT: Dan Johnson on "Thomas Chesterfield"
- Feb. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: **Leslie Goddard** on "Gone With the Wind and the Construction of Civil War Memory"
- Feb. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Charles Larimer on "Love and Valor: Intimate Civil War Letters"
- Feb. 19th, Champaign County CWRT: Mike Cornwell on "Researching Civil War Ancestors"
- Feb. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bill Hupp on "Battlefield Preservation"
- Feb. 26th, South Suburban CWRT: Steve Labarre on "Luke Babcock, 2nd Kansas Cavalry"

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.*

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"

Virtual Book Signing

Join the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** on **February 21st** at 12:00 noon (Central) when we welcome **Lesley Gordon** and **Brian McGinty** to the program. Gordon will be talking about her new book, *A Broken Regiment*; McGinty will discuss his new book, *Lincoln's Greatest Case*. Learn more about these books and order yours at http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor_2.

150 Years Ago - February, 1865

Feb. 1st: Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment.

3rd: President Lincoln met the three Confederate representatives on the 'River Queen' in Hampton Roads. Lincoln rejected their peace plan based on an independent south. He told them bluntly that America was one nation and one nation only. Lincoln insisted that the Union had to be restored before anything else was discussed.

7th: Lee's men drove back Union troops at Boydton Plank Road, near Petersburg, but by now he only had 46,000 men to defend 37 miles of trenches – about 1200 men per mile.

8th: Sherman's men continued their policy of destroying empty buildings as they advanced through South Carolina.

9th: Jefferson Davis offered an amnesty to anyone who deserted the Confederate Army as long as they returned to their regiment within 30 days.

11th: Sherman cut off Augusta from Charleston by cutting the Augusta-Georgia railway. One of the Confederates few remaining armies was based in Charleston and it was in danger of being surrounded.

14th: Jefferson Davis urged the defenders of Charleston, SC to hold until the last possible moment.

16th: Sherman's troops arrived on the south bank of Columbia, SC and the city was evacuated. Charleston prepared to evacuate.

17th: Columbia was occupied by Sherman's troops. Most of the city was burned to the ground.

18th: Charleston surrendered.

20th: The Confederate House of Representatives passed a bill authorising the use of slaves as soldiers.

21st: A sign of the divided opinion within the Confederacy: the Confederate Senate postponed a debate on whether the Confederacy should use slaves as soldiers.

22nd: Union troops entered Wilmington, NC.

27th: Union troops started a major move up the Shenandoah Valley. 10,000 Union cavalry advanced against severely depleted Confederate units.

The CWRT in the Past

70 Years Ago (Feb. 1945)—Lloyd D. Miller on "The Battle of Franklin"

50 Years Ago (Feb. 1965)—"Ladies Night," including the showing of the film "Red Badge of Courage"

25 Years Ago (Feb. 1990)—Private viewing of the Chicago Historical Society Exhibit "A House Divided: America in the Age of Lincoln"

10 Years Ago (Feb. 2005)—Bob Miller on "Both Prayed to the Same God. Religion, Faith, and the Civil War"

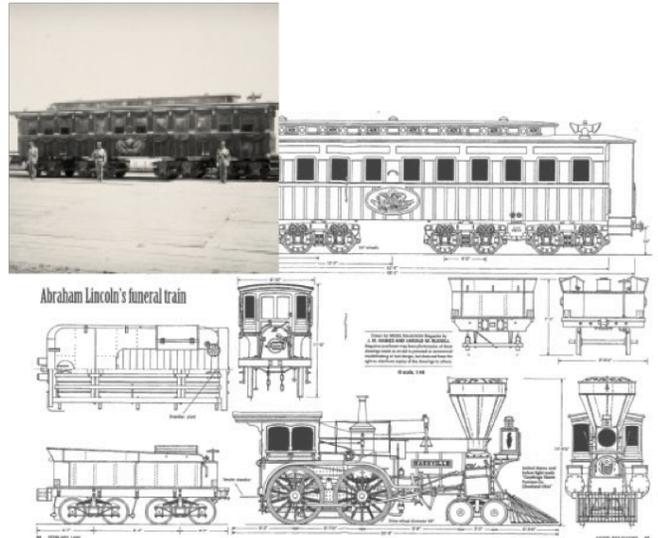
CWRT Battlefield Preservation Donates to Franklin Battlefield

This last week the CWRT's Battlefield Preservation Committee sent a check to The Civil War Trust for \$ 1,000 to help save land at Franklin, Tennessee. This was a \$ 14.00 to \$ 1.00 match campaign to save land south of the Carter House.

Lincoln Funeral Train Kickoff Event

The kickoff event for the 150th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's Springfield funeral is scheduled for Feb. 1 in conjunction with the opening of a new Remembering Lincoln exhibition at the Illinois State Museum.

This event is being held to kickoff the journey of the recreated Lincoln Funeral Train, which will follow the route the slain president's remains followed. See <http://www.the2015lincolnfuneraltrain.com/> for more information.



A **ShawChicago** Special Event

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CARVED IN STONE

Conceived, Adapted, and Performed by
RICHARD MARLATT



Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln and the end of the Civil War. The remarkable life of Lincoln celebrated in his own words.

Meet President Lincoln at a reception following the performance.

**Presidents' Day
Monday, February 16, 7 pm**

**Ruth Page Theater
1016 N. Dearborn**

Tickets: \$60, Seniors \$50, Students \$20

Abraham Lincoln Carved in Stone

Presidents' Day, February 16, 2015
7 pm - ONE NIGHT ONLY

*Shaw Chicago Theater Company
The remarkable life of our 16th President told in his own words*

Tickets available at
Abraham Lincoln or by
calling 312-587-7390.

Commemorate the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln and the end of the Civil War by spending the evening with the president as portrayed by Richard Marlatt. Meet Mr. Lincoln at a casual reception following the performance.