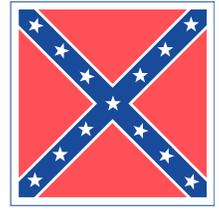


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 2015



744TH REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, September 11th

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN O'HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$50 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée: Flank
Steak or Tilipia*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Sunday, September 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 FREE.

Dale Phillips

on

The Capture of New Orleans

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

From the moment the Civil War began the principle objectives of the Union war effort, as part of the Anaconda Plan, were to blockade southern ports of entry and capture the Mississippi River Valley. Both these elements came into play when we look at the Union approach to the city of New Orleans. A great deal of attention has always been given to the Union advance and the Confederate defense of the upper Mississippi Valley. Only a small amount of attention has been given to the story of what took place at the mouth of the river and in the lower delta.

On September 11th Dale Phillips will look at the April 1862 capture of New Orleans, the largest city in the Confederacy, and its implications to the Confederate cause. The battle itself, and the running past Forts Jackson and St. Philip by the fleet of David Farragut, will be the cornerstone of the presentation.

The presentation will examine the Confederate attempts to defend the city despite a lack of support from the government in Richmond. We will examine in detail the



Confederate attempt to defend the lower river. This will include the little know effort to construct a River Defense Fleet anchored by, what would have been the most powerful ironclads the Confederacy would ever try to construct, the powerful CSS Louisiana and Mississippi.

Dale Phillips is a native of New Jersey. He earned my BA degree in American History from York College of Pennsylvania in 1978. I began working for the National Park Service as a seasonal interpreter

at Gettysburg in 1976. He has worked for the NPS for most of his adult life, as interpretive ranger at Fort Sumter, and park ranger/historian of

Chickamauga/Chattanooga, and as manager of the Chalmette unit (Battle of New Orleans) site.

Dale's present position is that of superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site in Springfield, IL. He has written numerous articles on U.S. military history for various publications. Dale also works as a guide/lecturer for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company, Civil War Roundtables, and other history touring organizations.



There Is Something Else There

By Erin Carlson Mast

(June 2015 Civil War News - Preservation Column)

Throughout the 20th century, nearly every site related to President Abraham Lincoln's life and presidency was saved or recreated, and interpreted to the public. In addition, a host of statues and memorials were erected across the country and around the world to serve as purpose-built places of interpretation and reflection.

That so many sites interpret Lincoln's life and leadership is unsurprising, considering he is routinely ranked in national and global surveys as one of the most influential historical figures of all time.

Yet, President Lincoln's Cottage, the place where he lived for a quarter of his presidency, where he made crucial decisions about the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War — the very issues that gave his presidency lasting impact — languished in obscurity for over half a century. ...

The lack of preservation and public accessibility to the Cottage reflected that it was not a priority, nor the expertise, of AFRH, which exists to serve the veterans who call this place home.

The Cottage was built in the District of Columbia in 1842, for banker George Washington Riggs. In 1851, the Federal Government purchased the Riggs' estate, with the express purpose of establishing the first U.S. home for retired and disabled soldiers.

The first president invited to live on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home was Lincoln's predecessor, James Buchanan, and President Lincoln visited the property three days after his inauguration. The Home invited the Lincolns to reside in a house on the grounds during the hot season, between June and November, which they anticipated doing each year, but were only able to do in 1862, 1863, and 1864. ...

The house retained a level of authenticity distinctive in the world of Lincoln, where many sites feature recreated spaces or purpose-built museums and sculpture. In 1973, the Cottage and three other pre-Civil War structures were declared a National Historic Landmark, though no substantial impact to preservation nor interpretation of the property occurred.

The fate of the Cottage changed in 1999, when the National Trust for Historic Preservation entered into a cooperative agreement with the Armed Forces Retirement Home. The following year, President Bill Clinton declared the Cottage a National Monument, jump starting efforts to raise both awareness and funds about the restoration efforts underway. In 2008, following a \$15 million, eight-year capital project by the National Trust, President Lincoln's Cottage opened to the public for the first time in history.

Despite being federal property and bearing both National Historic Landmark and National Monument designations, President Lincoln's Cottage is a private non-profit operation. The public-private arrangement makes the Cottage unique not only among Lincoln sites, the vast majority of which are run by state or federal government agencies, but unique among National Monuments; .

President Lincoln's Cottage is the only National Monument in the country that receives no federal operating support. Our support comes predominantly from individuals who recognize the resources required for exemplary preservation and programming.

...One cannot understand Lincoln's presidency, including the decisions he made, without appreciating his time

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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.

at the Soldiers' Home. ...

Establishing place and time is crucial for visitors to understand the influences on President Lincoln and the situations he had to navigate. But rather than merely represent a bygone era, the Cottage experience adds context to the struggle humanity has long faced to achieve liberty, justice, and equality. ...

The result is that President Lincoln's Cottage is a starting point for discourse on ideas that transcend time, can and have prompted real action to improve conditions today, and give the visitor experience lasting relevance.

Examples of this include our award-winning tour platform, our Students Opposing Slavery International Summit, our Lincoln Ideas Forum, and our forthcoming exhibit on Lincoln and Immigration.

We call President Lincoln's Cottage a home for brave ideas not only because of what Lincoln accomplished within these walls and on these grounds, but because of the conversations that happen here year-round.

...Lincoln may have died long ago, but the spirit of his ideas lives on at the Cottage. For information about the Cottage call (202) 829-0436 or visitlincolncottage.org

Parker's Crossroads Adds to Trails

By Gregory L. Wade (September 2015 Civil War News)

PARKERS CROSSROADS, Tenn. – Drivers on Interstate 40 slicing through the Parker's Crossroads Battlefield in West Tennessee now what looks like sidewalk construction on the open meadows where the Dec. 31, 1862, fight took place.

The battle there between Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest and Federals under Col. Cyrus Dunham took place when the Confederates were nearly trapped after faulty scouting left Forrest's command vulnerable.

What motorists see are the latest walking trails and interpretative work going on at the park. It came into modern-day existence with the 2001 purchase of 51 acres of battle land.

According to park historian, and one of its founders, Steve McDaniel, the park today has 350 acres with over two miles of trails and interpretative signage.

Additional trails of about a quarter mile being completed on the south side of the park will connect to a trail built in 2012 at a cost of \$162,632.

According to McDaniel, the new quarter-mile segment was left unfinished because of "increased construction costs" four years ago. It and a seven-tenths mile addition just north of the interstate will cost \$396,000 of which \$330,000 comes from a Tennessee Department of Transportation enhancement grant. The City of Parker's Crossroads is funding the balance.

When this work is completed, the park's total trail length will be right at 3.5 miles. The funding includes interpretative signage designed by Mudpuppy & Waterdog of Versailles, Ky.

Along with the battlegrounds, the park has a state-of-the-art visitor center, originally a grocery store, converted in 2011 at the cost of \$400,000 and an activities building refurbished in 2012 at a cost of \$75,000.

McDaniel says there are "no plans for additional land purchases," but he would like to see conservation easements on about 200 acres known as Hicks Field, where the battle began. This acreage is privately held and under cultivation.

McDaniel says the park now has more information as to the exact locations of possible unmarked Confederate graves and is seeking assistance for additional archeological work.

After the 2011 purchase of 51 acres, a local contact and state experts using grave locating devices found what appeared to be neatly laid out grave sites. A new survey would be about 300 feet from the original site which is still under consideration as a possible burial ground.

The New Year's Eve fight occurred when Federal troops sent to halt Forrest's cavalry, which was under orders to disrupt Gen. U.S. Grant's supply lines and lessen pressure on Confederates under siege at Vicksburg, attacked.

The Confederates found themselves surrounded at which time Forrest ordered his men to "charge them both ways." His cavalry and artillery broke the Union lines and escaped the trap.



Veteran Monument Dedication

P. H. Sheridan Camp #2 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) recently completed work on its Civil War veteran grave identification and rehabilitation project at Oak Hill and Oak Crest Memorial Cemeteries in Downers Grove. As a capstone to that effort, we are dedicating three new grave markers we secured and installed at Oak Hill on the graves of Jacob Escher (8th IL Cavalry), Judson Farrar (8th IL Cavalry) and Herman Pilz (52nd OH Infantry). The ceremony will be on Saturday, September 19 at 1pm at Oak Hill and last about 40 minutes. We want to take this opportunity to invite all members of Chicago area Civil War Round Tables to join us on September 19.



The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is sponsoring its annual **Conference on Illinois History** Sept. 24-25 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. For more information, contact Sabrina Mancini at 217 558-9014.

GRAPESHOT



Just a reminder that the 8th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum, at the **Kenosha Civil War Museum**, is on Saturday, September 12. Speakers include Scott Hartwig, Daniel Carroll Toomey, Dr. James Marten and Eric Wittenberg. For more information, visit www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/.

On Sept. 23rd, **Rob Girardi** will present "The Midwest in the Civil War" at the Geneva (IL) Library.

On Sept. 15th, Barrington Library will host "An Evening with Civil War Soldier Norris Hamilton." The event starts at 7 p.m.

On Sept. 13th, the **Battlefield Balladeers** will perform at the Wood Dale Harvest Fest.

Cantigny will be hosting a "Revolutionary War Reenactment" Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12th-13th, starting at 10 a.m. each day. This event is free, with \$5 parking.

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

A sad note: our old friend **Charlie Falkenberg** died August 30th. One of our long-time members, Charlie enlivened many a battlefield tour with his wry comments and stories of Notre Dame football games. He will be missed.

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

Sept. 2nd, Kankakee CWRT: Jerry Hutslander on "The Confederate Navy"

Sept. 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Ron Carlson on "Alpheus Williams"

Sept. 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "In the Shadows of Lincoln"

Sept. 10th, Lake County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "In Defense of Burnside"

Sept. 10th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dale Phillips on "The Capture of New Orleans"

Sept. 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Chris Mackowski on "The Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"

Sept. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Frank Crawford on "Jennie Hodgers/Albert Cashier"

Sept. 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Ted Karamanski on "The Civil War on the Great Lakes"

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*.

Oct. 9: Dennis Frye, Nevins-Freeman Award: "John Brown: The Spark that Ignited War"

Nov. 13: Philip Leigh on "Trading with the Enemy"

Dec. 11: Dave Keller on "Camp Douglas"

Jan. 8, 2016: David Moore on "William S. Rosecrans"

Feb. 12: Don Doyle on "The Cause of All Nations"

March 11: Bruce Kraig on "Why the Civil War Made our Modern Food"

April 8: Greg Biggs on "Nashville: Siren's Song of the Confederacy"

May 13: Glenna Schroeder-Lein on "The Soldiers' Home in Civil War America"

June 10: Dale Phillips on "Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans"



Virtual Book Signing

Join the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** on September 12, at noon (Central) when we welcome **David Keller** and **Stephen Towne** to the program. Keller will discuss his new book, *The Story of Camp Douglas*. Towne will talk about his book, *Surveillance of Spies of the Civil War*. Learn more about this book and order yours at http://virtualbooksigning.net/book-information/#anchor_2.