



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVI, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 2016



753RD REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, June 10th

★★★★★

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 Whitefish*

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Sunday, June 5, 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 *Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans*

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

On May 1, 1862, Union General Benjamin Butler and 5,000 untested Federal soldiers landed at the base of Canal Street and formally took possession of the largest city in the Confederacy, New Orleans. Over the course of the next seven months, under Butler's leadership, control of the city of New Orleans and the lower Mississippi River Valley would become one of the most controversial and complicated episodes of the Civil War. To this day, General Butler's actions are still very much debated.

The New Orleans of 1862 was a city of more than 170,000 people, making it three times larger than the next most populated cities in the Confederacy, Richmond and Charleston. Even though there existed strong pro-Confederate feeling, there was also significant pro-Union support. It was a very diverse population representing all corners of the earth.

The program will center on the specific events of Butler's military governorship. One of the objectives will be to explain the complicated mission given to General Butler, combining both military and civil responsibilities. There was not a more difficult assignment ever given to any other officer on either side of the war



during the course of the war.

Dale will examine many of the controversial actions of General Butler

including his famous (or infamous) Order 28, the "Woman Order"; his liberal use of the Confiscation Acts; his iron-fisted control of the local media; and the execution of William Mumford, a civilian. The program will conclude with an examination of the events that forced Lincoln to remove Butler and replace him with General Nathaniel Banks.

Dale Phillips is a native of New Jersey. He earned a BA degree in American History from York College of Pennsylvania in 1978. He 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.

This presentation is a continuation of the presentation he made to our CWRT in September.



DEMOLITION BEGINS AT GETTYSBURG LEE'S HEADQUARTERS SITE

By Leon Reed

Gettysburg, Pa--The Civil War Trust completed interior clean-up work and began exterior demolition of non-historic buildings on the "Lee Headquarters" site on Chambersburg Rd. in Gettysburg. The land sits on Seminary Ridge, just north of the Lutheran Seminary and was part of Lee's command complex during the 2nd and 3rd days of the battle. It is immediately to the east of the first day's battlefield and was occupied by Stewart's battery and the 143rd Pa. of Stone's brigade during the last stand of the 1st Corps on Seminary Ridge, late on the afternoon of July 1st.

The 4-acre property was part of the growing tourist industry since the 1930s when tourist cabins were built on the property. Until the Trust's purchase, the property held a 1950s motel (most recently, a Quality Inn) and a restaurant building, most recently occupied by the Appalachian Brewing Co. brew pub.

The Civil War Trust purchased the property in 2013 and has spent the past 2+ years navigating federal and local historic preservation and other requirements. Land clearance started on March 21st with the demolition of the brew pub building, and the demolition of the motel itself was underway by March 30th. The Trust hopes that all clearance and redevelopment activities will be completed by late spring. The property will include a network of trails and signage to interpret both the Civil War and tourist era uses of the property.

While the project is popular among many Civil War buffs, it has

aroused concern within the Borough of Gettysburg. It is not universally popular even among some Gettysburg battlefield buffs, who lament the loss of a motel and restaurant and raise concern about access to the building after the renovation is complete. On a popular Gettysburg-related Facebook page called Gettysburg Past and Present, Chuck Teague, a former ranger, took issue with the sale. "The two businesses (motel and restaurant) operating there continued to be viable enterprises, which is why this was such a surprise to everyone in town. The motel had been renovated, and I heard only glowing reports from customers. It was the big bucks offered by the CWT that prompted the sale, not any distress in continuing those businesses."

Bill Sack stated "When preservation involves taking away part of a town's personality and can cause a negative economic impact and cost jobs that is where I draw the line. In this case, all three came into play. Nobody can say, that over the years, the Quality Inn and whichever restaurant happened to occupy that building at any one time, were not part of Gettysburg's personality and not local landmarks. They were not eyesores in the least. No matter how many times the Civil War Trust thumps their chest and exclaims how they "saved" Lee's Headquarters, the reality is, saved from what? The Mary Thompson house was never in imminent danger of ever being torn down or lost to history. In my opinion, part of the face of Gettysburg is forever changed with this "preservation" and

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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.

not for the better. These photos sadly mark the end of an "era".

Lori Cesare Francesconi stated "as far back as I can remember that is the only place we stayed. The rooms were inexpensive, spacious and clean. Breakfast was included and a tour of the museum. You also had a nice pool, charming gift shop, and a restaurant. It was quiet and looking out of your window on the battlefield was fantastic. There is a lot of history there and so what if it old. Isn't that the charm of Gettysburg. It's not New York City, where bigger, brighter, fancier and modern is necessary. It was also nice having a motel on that side of town."

She also questioned whether access to the museum will be lost. "Now that the only thing left standing there will be Lee's Headquarters, is it going to be a museum where people can go inside, or is it just going to sit there as an empty building? I heard there is going to be a walking path there. Who is going to go on that side of town just to walk a path if you can't go in the museum?"

From May *Civil War News*

MAY MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Glenna Schroeder-Lein addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 752nd Regular Meeting on May 13, 2016, presenting on 'The Soldier's Home in the Civil War.' Both North and South, these facilities provided food, lodging, and temporary medical care for soldiers in transit to and from the front. Some were coming home or returning from leave, others on regimental errands; some were newly enlisted, others discharged. Also known as the Soldiers Rest or, in the South, Wayside Home, homes also provided temporary care for those on medical or convalescence leave.

Homes were located in big cities and small towns, but could be found on transportation routes and especially at rail and river junctions. Soldiers on the move found food at the homes, and at some, lodging. As the war progressed, more homes provided for medical needs. The homes dispensed travel funds for soldiers who were sporadically paid. According to the *Charleston Courier*, the local Wayside Home kept soldiers away from the 'tender mercies' of extortionist hotel and shop keepers. At Camp Butler in Springfield, Illinois, the local newspaper touted the home as a "helpful repose" from the "ruinous temptations" of local grog shops; in reality the town was more concerned the soldiers would destroy local property.

The functions of homes sometimes changed over time. The Soldier Aid Society set up by local women in Centralia, Illinois, was designed to take care of soldiers put off trains due to illness but morphed into a transit station for those going to the front. The Chicago Soldier Home set up in 1863 became a home

for the disabled by 1864. After the war, homes became residences for older and disabled veterans. Two Illinois homes, Quincy and Danville, became post-war 'old soldiers' homes.

There was no national organization of these homes, but there was some oversight. The Sanitary Commission ran homes in the Northeast and the Old Northwest. The Western Sanitary Commission, a separate entity, ran homes in the Mississippi Valley - Memphis, Columbus, Kentucky, and Vicksburg as well as in St. Louis. The Confederacy had no such organization; however, the Georgia Association formed in Augusta ran homes in that state and also had one in Richmond. Also, the Army of Tennessee had a Wayside Hospital operating behind front lines.

Fund-raising, nursing and performing other services in the homes was 'women's work': "Men administered while women did the work," said Schroeder-Lein. Cooking was a major task. Harriet Wiswall served up to 600 men at the Vicksburg 'feeding station', and wrote of once baking 40 pies in one day. They worked in buildings of various stock - a nine-room mansion in Vicksburg, a vacated storefront in Centralia. Springfield used Camp Butler, originally a major mustering site. Cairo constructed two buildings near the railroad station and the docks. Chicago's facility, 'Dearborn Park,' was located in the area west of downtown.

Support for the homes came from local communities in the form of in-kind donations - mattresses, brooms, furniture, spoons - but larger Sanitary Fairs were held which charged admission

and for entertainment. Local newspapers assisted, soliciting funds and supplies and publicizing donors' efforts. Groups such as the Memphis Christian Commission encouraged mainstream Protestant denominations to take care of soldiers' needs. This support and encouragement had mixed results: Milwaukee, inspired by Chicago's effort, opened a home; fund-raising in Houston was insufficient, and the plan there failed.

There were 41 Soldier Homes located in 17 states and the District of Columbia. Schroeder-Lein reminds us that the soldiers who sought succor at the homes brought the war with them, thus expanding our understanding of how and where the war was fought. She also causes us to reflect on the soldiers who to this day sacrifice much for our nation and who, too, are in need.



BEARSS FUND DONORS

The following donated to the Ed Bearss fund:

Bruce Allardice, Brian Seiter, Randy Doler, Kurt Carlson, Janet Linhart, Jim Patterson, Tom Jaros, Marybeth Foley, Terry Carr, Mark Matranga, Paula Walker, Jim Cunningham, Dave Gapinski, Bob Gibson, Eric Deutsch, Nicole Deutsch, Fred Johanson, Rosie Johanson, Kevin Johnston, Lori Duginski, Roger Rudich, Cindy Heckler, Chuck Adams, Joe Donley, Jean Cairns, Muriel Underwood, Ginny Proconiar

The CWRT thanks you all for your donations, which go to preserve the battlefield(s) that Ed feels are most deserving.

GRAPESHOT



On June 11th, at the Geneseo Public Library, Laura Keyes and **Leslie Goddard** will bring Mary Todd Lincoln and Jacqueline Kennedy to life in an imagined meeting.

On Aug. 14, Leslie will portray “Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse” at Chestnut Square at the Glen, Glenview.

Larry Hewitt will speak on “Fighting Dick Anderson: Lee’s Most Maligned General” August 12th at the Civil War Museum, Kenosha.

On June 14th, **Bruce Allardice** will speak on “Civil War Movies” at the McHenry County CWRT.

On July 23rd the Philip H. Sheridan Camp #2 of the Sons of Union Veterans (SUVCW), in conjunction with the Fullersburg Historic Foundation, will dedicate three new grave markers of Civil War veterans buried in historic Fullersburg Cemetery in Hinsdale. The ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. CWRT members are invited (and encouraged) to attend.

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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

June 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Annual Banquet and games

June 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual Banquet, with Brian Steele Wills on “George Thomas”

June 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Dale Phillips on “Ben Butler and the Federal Occupation of New Orleans”

June 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet, with Gordon Dammann on “Civil War Medicine, Hollywood Version: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly”

June 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Charles Hammer on “Black Soldiers and a Peckerwood White Boy”

July 12th, McHenry County CWRT: Fred Reczkowicz on “Mr. Lincoln’s Navy”

July 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Anne Sarah Rubin on “Sherman’s March and How it is Remembered”

Aug. 9th, McHenry County CWRT: Dave Noe on “The Philadelphia Home Guard”

Aug. 16th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Gordon Dammann on “Civil War Medicine-Hollywood Style”

Aug. 25th, South Suburban CWRT: Jerry Allen on “General George Thomas”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn O’Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated.*

Sept. 9th: Steve Quick on “The C.S.S. Hunley”

Oct. 14th: Lance Herdegan, Nevins-Freeman Address

Nov. 11th: Dave Connon on “Iowa Copperheads”

Dec. 9th: Bjorn Skaptasan on “Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh”

Jan. 13th, 2017: Richard Sommers on “Lessons in Leadership in the Petersburg Campaign”

Feb. 10th: Bob O’Neil on “Cavalry During the Peninsula Campaign”

Mar. 10th: Paul Kahan on “Simon Cameron, Lincoln’s First Secretary of War”

Apr. 14th: Diane Smith on “Command Conflict in the Overland Campaign”

May 12th: Connie Hansen presents a “First Person Portrayal of Jennie Wade’s mother”

June 9th: Don Sender on “Custer and the Little Big Horn Campaign”

SUMMER AT THE CIVIL WAR MUSEUM AT KENOSHA

The Civil War Museum has a fine lineup of programs for this summer, including:

Civil War Surgeon Archibald S. Maxwell

Thursday, June 2, at noon

George Maxwell

Free and Open to the Public

Presented by George C. Maxwell, Esq., great-great-great grandson of Dr. Archibald S. Maxwell. George C. Maxwell discusses the part that Dr. Maxwell played in two volunteer medical missions sent by the citizens of Davenport, Iowa to provide medical aid and assistance to wounded and sick soldiers following the Battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh. He will discuss how the city's citizens organized to support the medical aid missions, what conditions Dr. Maxwell and others reported finding, and what Dr. Maxwell and others did to treat the wounded and sick soldiers.

The 19th Indiana Color Guard at Gettysburg

Friday, June 10, Noon

Mr. Phil Spaugy

The 19th Indiana fought alongside the other four regiments of the Iron Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, losing 72 percent of those engaged. Mr. Spaugy's talk will encompass both the morning and afternoon phases of the action, with an emphasis on telling the stories of the men of the 19th who carried the regimental colors on that fateful day.

The Fight at the Barricade

Saturday, June 11 (part of Salute to Freedom Encampment), 1:00PM

Mr. Phil Spaugy

Free

Mr. Spaugy's talk will cover the "Last Stand" of the Iron Brigade at the barricade of rails near the Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. This final act bought critical time--20 minutes--that arguably saved not only the Army of the Potomac but also the Federal Union.

June 24th: Connie Hansen presents "A Visit with Jennie Wade's Mother"

July 8th, at noon: "The 19th Illinois and its Colorful Commander, Colonel John B. Turchin"

Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653- 4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

LOMBARD CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

On July 23-24, Lombard will host its annual Civil War Reenactment at the Four Seasons Park, 16th and Main Streets. The events runs from 10-4, and the public is invited. For more information, visit <http://www.lombardhistory.org/Civil%20War/2016/Tentative%20Schedule%20of%20Events%202016.pdf>

CWRT ANNUAL ELECTION

At the May CWRT meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for the 2015-2016 year.

President—Jon Sebastian

Executive Vice President—Marc Kunis

First Vice President—Randy Doler

Second Vice President—Jim Cunningham

Treasurer—Bruce Allardice

Assistant Treasurer—Bob Gibson

Secretary—Don Modes

Assistant Secretary—James Adduci

2016-2018 Trustees—Tom Murray, Rick Branham, Scott McIlvain and Randy Whitchurch

OSWEGO CEMETERY VETERANS DEDICATION

On May 7th, the editor attended another SUV sponsored event, dedicating new grave markers for some of our fallen heroes. There was a great turnout, with speeches by the local Congressmen and our own Jerry Kowalski. President Cindy Heckler and several other CWRT members enjoyed the proceedings.



President Lincoln (Max Daniels) looks on



Jerry Kowalski lends spiritual guidance



Mulligan's Battery, firing a salute