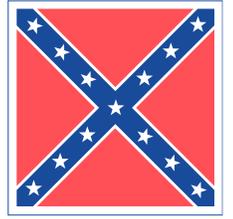


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Bjorn Skaptason

What I Saw of Shiloh: Ambrose Bierce Goes to War



Ambrose Bierce wrote some of the finest literature in the genre of horror fiction of any American author. He also enjoyed a storied career as one of the greatest journalists of the age of Yellow Journalism at the turn of the Twentieth Century. But on April 7, 1862, nineteen year-old Sergeant Bierce of the 9th Indiana regiment faced the real horror of the battle of Shiloh. His vivid chronicle of his experience in this battle rivals any work of fiction in communicating the drama, the pathos and the horror of the Civil War and of this battle.

history from Loyola University Chicago. He worked as a seasonal ranger at the National Park Service's Shiloh National Military Park and Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center for two summers while studying at Loyola. He still returns to Shiloh yearly on the anniversary of the battle to help lead special interpretive hikes of the battlefield.

He has previously published essays on Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh for the Ambrose Bierce Project Journal, on the United States

Colored Troops in the campaign and battle of Brice's Crossroads for the West Tennessee Historical Society Papers, and in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society on The Chicago Light Artillery. A dealer in antiquarian books, Bjorn produces and guest hosts "A House Divided," a live Civil War book discussion program webcast from Abraham Lincoln Book Shop in Chicago.

On December 9th Bjorn Skaptason will use words and images to introduce the Shiloh battlefield in the footsteps of Sergeant Bierce, while reciting and interpreting passages from his classic essay, What I Saw of Shiloh.

Bjorn Skaptason holds a M.A. in



757th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

Friday, December 9th

★★★★★

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

HAM OR TILAPIA



RESTORATION OF GEN. LEE'S HEADQUARTERS AT GETTYSBURG COMPLETED

Gettysburg, PA- During ceremonies this morning on Seminary Ridge, the Civil War Trust joined with local preservation advocates and hundreds of supporters to announce the successful conclusion of a national campaign to preserve, restore and interpret the four-acre headquarters site of Gen. Robert E. Lee during the Battle of Gettysburg. The effort protects the small stone house- known as the Mary Thompson House- and adjacent lands that served as a combat command center during one of the most decisive battles in American history.

"Today, we can truly celebrate one of the Civil War Trust's keystone successes in the last 30 years," said Trust President James Lighthizer. "General Lee's Headquarters is an educational and commemorative site on par with the most historic landmarks in the nation, and its restoration is an accomplishment in which every individual and organization involved should take pride."

For more than a year, the Trust has worked diligently to rehabilitate the home, return the landscape to its Civil War appearance, and install a new interpretive walking trail on the property. In addition to serving as the nerve center of Lee's army during the Battle of Gettysburg, the land also witnessed severe fighting on July 1, 1863.

"As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial, we are looking ahead to the next century of preservation and discovery," noted Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Ed Clark. "A historic place of the caliber of Lee's Headquarters, vulnerable

to development for 150 years, underscores the critical need for public-private partnerships to ensure these memorials will be available for future generations of Americans."

To return the headquarters to its wartime appearance, 10 modern structures were removed, as well as several post-war additions to the Thompson Home. A historically appropriate cedar shingle roof was also added to the home, though two original beams dating to 1834 remain in place. Relying on post-war surveys by Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren (a civil engineer who served at Gettysburg) and period photographs of the home and grounds, historic contours were added back to the site, as well as a garden, fencing and dog house. The interpretive trail, produced in conjunction with Civil War Trails, explains the dramatic events at the headquarters from July 13 1863.

Twenty-four apple trees will augment the site in spring 2017 to recreate a historic orchard, in addition to six hardwoods that are already in place. The planting is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground's Living Legacy Project, which aims to plant a tree for each of the 620,000 soldiers who died during the Civil War.

"We are grateful to play an important part in the restoration of this iconic land," said Journey Chairman David Williams. "As we work to raise awareness for all the sites along the Journey's National Heritage Area, the Lee's Headquarters grounds and trail create a must-see destination at one of our country's defining battlefields."

To realize this vision, the

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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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.

Civil War Trust launched a \$ 5.5 million national fundraising campaign in 2014 to acquire and restore the Lee's Headquarters site. Major contributions and grants came from FedEx, the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Karen and Paul Isaac, Ira and Diana Riklis, Dick Gilder, Rupert Johnson, Civil War Trust Chairman Emeritus John Nau and wife Bobbie, and Frank and Judy Bracken. The remaining \$ 1.1 million was raised with donations from over 11,000 Trust members.

Eventually, Lee's Headquarters will be donated to the National Park Service for incorporation into the existing military park. On this and other stewardship projects, the Trust and the National Park Service work closely with the Gettysburg Foundation -the nonprofit partner that owns and operates the museum and visitor center at Gettysburg National Military Park and pursues a broad mission including land, monument and artifact preservation, as well as battlefield rehabilitation....

From December *Civil War News*

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Dave Connon addressed The Civil War Round Table at its 756th Regular Meeting on November 11, 2016, speaking on "Iowa Copperheads." Despite being a Republican state with few slaves, slavery in the territories divided Iowa as it did the country in the pre-war period. Some Iowans harbored sentiments similar to those found in southern Indiana and Ohio where ultra-montane democratic elements committed to the southern cause. Connon laid out the case that although a small group, Iowa copperheads were just as ardent in their loyalty to the south as were larger groups in the Midwest.

One Iowan who embraced the pro-slavery cause was George Wallace Jones, friend of Jefferson Davis and a sitting Senator in the 1850's. Due to his support for the Lecompton Constitution and increasing identification with southern interests, Jones was not nominated by what was becoming a solid Republican state. President Buchanan appointed him minister to Colombia in 1859, a post he held until the Lincoln administration came into power in 1861. While in Bogota, Jones maintained contact with Jefferson Davis; Secretary Seward intercepted this correspondence and had him arrested on his return to the United States.

Although nominally opposed to slavery, Jones promised Davis his support; he offered to enroll in the Confederated army. Connon considers his arrest and incarceration a gift to Iowa Republicans. The local Republican press spoke out on Jones, the Muscatine paper calling him a traitor while the Burlington *Daily Hawk-Eye* considered him

"not only a traitor, but an ass." Notwithstanding this opprobrium, his family supported secession: His son, Charles, also a southern sympathizer, blamed "damnable" abolitionists for the troubles in Bleeding Kansas. He and his brother ultimately joined the Confederate service.

Actions of the Lincoln administration, especially the suspension of habeas corpus, caused ferment among Iowa Democrats. Charles Mason, Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, considered secession a legitimate uprising against injustice and oppression and the war against it unconstitutional. He urged the preservation of the union but called for the government to first attempt conciliation and compromise. Despite this plea, Secretary Stanton ordered federal and state officials to apprehend dissident Democrats who worked to discourage enlistment, and hauled them before military tribunals.

These arrests were carried out during the 1862 election season by federal marshal H.M. Hoxie and included prominent editors of Democratic newspapers, including Dennis Mahoney, who edited the state's leading Copperhead organ, *The Dubuque Herald*. Mahoney was held in jail for the last four months of 1862 but was never brought to trial. During that time he was nominated for a seat in Congress.

By 1863, local Republicans were calling all Democrats 'Copperheads,' southern sympathizers too sensitive to the southern cause. Historian Frank Vandiver spoke of a smear campaign wherein local newspapers after the fall of Vicksburg began to call for a "round up" of southern

sympathizers. During that period Charles Jones was captured in Virginia wearing the confederate uniform. Local newspapers called him a traitor who "murders sons of Iowa." At home, soldiers broke up offices and presses of Democratic papers in Keokuk and elsewhere.

By the end of the war, the Copperheads were discredited, lumped with the Knights of the Golden Circle. Connon thinks dissenters like Jones and Mahoney were whipping boys for a Republican propaganda machine; there is little evidence the Democrat Party was engaged in wholesale subversive activity.

In all, some 76 Iowans enlisted in the Confederate army. Connon related the exploits of one of them, John Haps, a typesetter by trade who served in the Jefferson Davis Rifles and the 2nd Kentucky Cavalry with Morgan's command in the Great Raid. Wounded and captured he escaped and finished out the war under Basil Duke's command, escorting Jefferson Davis. He never surrendered, ending his days in a soldier's home in Mississippi, a vivid wearer of the "scarlet ribbon of dissent."



BROOKS DAVIS PASSES AWAY

Our friend and former CWRT president John Brooks Davis passed away Oct. 29th in downstate Illinois. A true gentleman, Brooks won the respect of everyone who knew him.

GRAPESHOT



On December 14, **Rob Girardi** will speak to the Cleveland CWRT on “The Murder of Maj. Gen. William Nelson.”

On December 9 the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will feature, in its Second Friday Lunchbox Lecture Series, “Make Way for Liberty: Wisconsin African-Americans in the Civil War” by Jeff Kannel. The event is free and starts at noon. On Dec. 2nd, Noah Andre Trudeau will be signing copies of his new book, *Lincoln’s Greatest Journey*. Visit the museum’s website at <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/> for more information.

The November issue of *Civil War News* has an article on the 96th Illinois (“Gen. John Corson Smith and the Chattanooga Campaign”) by **Bruce Allardice** and Wayne Wolf.

From the officers of The Civil War Round Table, here’s wishing everyone a safe and **Happy Holiday Season!**

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.

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, December 4, 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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

Dec. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Tony Ziebol on “Richard Kirkland, the Angel of Marye’s Heights”

Dec. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

Chris Curtis on “Five Years of Visits to Civil War Sites”

Dec. 8th, Lake County CWRT: Xmas

Pot Luck

Dec. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Bjorn

Skaptasan on “Ambrose Bierce at Shiloh”

Dec. 15th, South Suburban CWRT:

Holiday Party

Dec. 16th, Salt Creek CWRT: Bruce

Allardice on “Chicagoland and the Civil War”

Dec. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Ted

Karamanski on “Chicago in the Civil War”

Jan. 4th, 2017, Kankakee Valley

CWRT: Steve DePasquale on “Lincoln’s Consideration of Colonization for Freed Slaves”

Jan. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Bruce Allardice on “The Battle of Ezra Church”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

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”

Abraham Lincoln Bookshop Open Again!

They’re open for business at their new address, 824 W. Superior St. (Superior and Green), Suite 100, Chicago. This month, their new “Author’s Voice” series of interviews with Civil War authors welcomes Noah Andre Trudeau and Mark Zwonitzer, discussing their new books, *Lincoln’s Greatest Journey* and *The Statesman and the Storyteller*. The events starts noon, Dec. 3rd.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF CHICAGO

2017 - 67th Tour: "RICHMOND 1862, PENINSULA CAMPAIGN"

► **NOTE:** Tour scheduled for **May 3 – 7, 2017** & will be limited to two buses.

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2017, CHECK IN

Arrive in **Richmond, Virginia**...fly from Chicago directly to the **Richmond International Airport**.

Base hotel: Holiday Inn at Richmond Airport, 445 International Center Dr. Sandston, VA

For details & directions: Call 804-236-1111 www.shaminhotels.com

- **Free Shuttle Service from the airport. Call hotel upon arrival. Do not plan your return flight before 3:00pm.**
- **Dinner Wednesday night & all breakfasts are "on your own."**

Ed Bearss is our Chief Guide in Bus #1. **Larry Hewitt** is Bus #2 Guide (Thursday on the Peninsula). **Mike Andrus & Ed Sanders** are Bus #2 Guides (Friday & Saturday for Seven Days Battles around Richmond).

THURSDAY, May 4, 2017, PENINSULA

Thursday through Sunday: Buses load at 7:30AM & depart at 8:00AM.

- Fort Monroe, Casemate Museum and Grounds
- Lunch at The Chamberlin
- Hampton Roads Overlook
- Rest Stop at Newport News Visitor Center
- Battle of Dam #1, Newport News Park
- Yorktown Battlefield
- Redoubt Park, Williamsburg

Richmond ...Dinner at Base Hotel, cash bar; Speaker: Ed Bearss.

FRIDAY, May 5, 2017, SEVEN DAYS BATTLES

- Drewry's Bluff
- Drive by Fair Oaks/Seven Pines
- Rest Stop at Dabbs House, Robert E. Lee's Headquarters
- Lunch at Roma Ristorante Italiano, Mechanicsville
- Battle of Beaver Dam Creek
- Battle of Gaines' Mill (Watt House)
- Battle of Savage Station

Richmond...Dinner at Base Hotel, cash bar; Speaker: TBD.

SATURDAY, May 6, 2017, SEVEN DAYS BATTLES

- White Oak Swamp
- Battle of Glendale (Frayser's Farm) Rest Stop
- Malvern Hill, Stop #1 Parsonage
- Catered Lunch
- Malvern Hill Battlefield, Stop #2
- Harrison's Landing at Berkeley Plantation, Tour of House and Grounds

Richmond... Dinner at Base Hotel, cash bar, and Fun Night

SUNDAY, May 7, 2017, MUSEUM TOURS

Choice of:

- **Bus #1 White House and Museum of The Confederacy, or**
- **Bus #2 The American Civil War Center at Tredegar & The National Park Service Visitor Center**

Lunch at Base Hotel. Do not plan your return flight before 3:00 PM.

Bus shuttle service to airport. This tour itinerary is subject to change.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE of Chicago

REGISTRATION for "Richmond 1862, Peninsula Campaign" - 67th TOUR, May 3 - 7, 2017

★ Note...This Tour is limited to two buses. ★



COST OF THE TOUR \$845.00 per person, double occupancy; \$1,090.00 per person, single occupancy.
Tour cost includes Hotel room for Wednesday evening thru Sunday noon; all lunches & dinners; all motor coach services; outstanding Tour Guides; all admission fees; evening programs; and a comprehensive Tour Kit. A cash-bar will be available through all dinners.

Dinner Wednesday evening & all breakfasts are on-your-own.

Ed Bearss is our Chief Guide. **Larry Hewitt** (Thursday only on the Peninsula), **Mike Andrus & Ed Sanders** (Friday through Sunday for Seven Days Battles around Richmond) are Bus #2 Guides.

TOUR BASE HOTEL **Holiday Inn at Richmond Airport**, 445 International Center Drive, Sandston, VA 23150
Call 804-236-1111; for details & directions: www.shaminhotels.com

Transportation Flights from Chicago go directly to the Richmond International Airport...**Direct from Midway:** Delta. **Direct from O'Hare:** American, Delta, Jet Blue & United.
The Holiday Inn at Richmond Airport offers free shuttles from the airport.

- ❶ **Non-Members** \$100.00 per person additional for non-members of the *Civil War Round Table of Chicago*, or save money and join now; go to www.cwrt.org and print out the membership form. You can submit your membership application along with your tour payment.
- ❷ **Roommates** Indicate the name of the person with whom you wish to share a room. If you would like help in finding a roommate, please check "Need a roommate."
- ❸ **Bus Boarding** Buses will load every morning at **7:30AM** and depart promptly at **8:00AM**. Boarding and seating on a specific bus is on a first-come, day-to-day basis. Once seated for the day on a specific bus/seat, please do not change your bus/seat for the remainder of the day...necessary for an accurate "head count." Each day following, choice of bus/seat will continue on a first-come basis.
- ❹ **Physical Limitations**...Please make certain that you are physically able to meet the challenges of our Tour stops and activities. The CWRT of Chicago is not responsible for illnesses or injuries that may incur.
- ❺ **Unforeseen Circumstances**...Should unforeseen circumstances occur, the CWRT of Chicago reserves the right to cancel or alter any or all of the planned activities.

★ Send this registration form with your payment in full, or a \$200.00 deposit. Payment in full is due on or before March 15, 2017.

Name(s) *PLEASE PRINT* _____

Badge names _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phones: Home _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Holiday Inn Richmond Airport is a NON-Smoking facility.

Plan to share a room? NO _____ YES _____ Roommate's name _____

I need a roommate, please help _____ *The CWRT does not ensure the suitability of any roommate matches.*

SUNDAY MORNING PLEASE SELECT EITHER: **WHITE HOUSE & MUSEUM OF THE CONFEDERACY** _____
Or AMERICAN CIVIL WAR CENTER AT HISTORIC TREDEGAR _____

★ Send this registration form with your check payable to "The Civil War Round Table"

MAIL TO: ► **Brian Seiter Tour Registrar; 9812 S. California, Evergreen Park, IL 60805**
Call 708-218-1865; Email: bseiter1865@hotmail.com