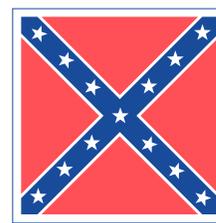


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXVIII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2017

David Dixon:

“The Lost Gettysburg Address”



Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address has gone down in history as a masterful statement of American purpose. Many people know that Lincoln was not the primary speaker that November day in 1863, when the Gettysburg cemetery was dedicated. Some know that noted orator Edward Everett delivered the (2-hour-long) keynote address at the dedication. But very few people know who delivered a third, largely forgotten, address that day in Gettysburg.

story of the discovery of the speech manuscript itself, in a most unlikely place. Anderson’s speech, which followed Lincoln’s at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, remained lost for nearly 150 years until it was discovered recently. A transcript of this speech, along with rare photographs and a hand-drawn map of the Stones River battlefield, are all published in Dixon’s book for the first time.

David Dixon earned his B.A. in Political Science from the University of California and his M.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts. He spent 35 years in marketing with Fortune 500 companies.

David published numerous articles in scholarly journals and magazines. Most have focused on black history and Union supporters in the Civil War South. David’s website is called “B-List History.” It focuses on historical figures who were important in their time, but are all but forgotten today.

Currently, David is writing the first full-length biography of Union General August Willich, a German 48er who distinguished himself in a number of important battles.

Recently, historian David Dixon published his first book, *The Lost Gettysburg Address: Charles Anderson’s Civil War Odyssey*. David’s talk recounts the life story of Charles Anderson, a slave owner who sacrificed nearly everything to help save the Union. Dixon will explain how Anderson ended up sharing the spotlight with Lincoln and Edward Everett at Gettysburg in November, 1863. He argues that the three featured speeches at Gettysburg were a carefully crafted rhetorical ensemble, each having a specific political purpose, in addition to memorializing the dead soldiers.

He will also share the unusual



767th REGULAR MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, December 8th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN O’HARE

5615 N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

**ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.**

THANKSGIVING IN THE CIVIL WAR

On October 3, 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation designating "the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving." Lincoln's announcement marked the culmination of a multi-decade campaign by Sarah Josepha Hale to make Thanksgiving into a national holiday. Although Lincoln wrote the vast majority of his state papers, the Thanksgiving Proclamation was in fact drafted by Seward.

Washington DC, October 3, 1863

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God.

In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union.

Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battle-field; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom.

No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
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.

penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

By the President: Abraham Lincoln
William H. Seward, Secretary of State

From The Civil War Trust website

NOVEMBER MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Dr. Thomas Clemens addressed The Round Table at its 766th Regular Meeting on November 10, 2017, with an examination of the role of the infamous 'Lost Order' on the outcome of the Antietam Campaign. Clemens challenges the idea that the loss of Special Order 191 materially affected Lee's plans and gave George McClellan a foolproof blueprint for destroying Lee's army. Rather, given when the order was found and the information it contained, McClellan gained only a limited understanding of Lee's order of battle and its commander's intentions. He also refutes the idea that McClellan moved so slowly that he squandered any advantage the lost order provided.

Clemens first answered the question which has challenged historians: Who lost Order 191? The usual culprit, D.H. Hill, who was sent copies by Lee and Jackson, adamantly asserted that he received only one. Clemens hypothesizes that a careless courier lost one of the five copies. There is also the theory that Kyd Douglas lost the order Lee penned for Hill. And the claim of "deliberate ruse" has also held currency - this holds that Lee left the order to decoy the federals from rescuing the Harper's Ferry garrison. Theories abound, Clemens says, but no one knows.

More important, Clemens emphasizes, is when the order was found. Based on accounts of those who delivered the order to army headquarters, the order was presented to McClellan at noon, but Clemens suggests this cannot be correct. The general allegedly telegraphed the President at 'midday,' informing Lincoln that the cavalry had "taken Braddock Heights" and that he had "all the plans of the rebels." Given

that his cavalry commander reported having taken Braddock Heights/Hagan's Gap at 2 p.m. on September 13th, it is not possible that McClellan saw the order earlier that day. Rather, his report that Lee's order "came into my hands this evening" suggests an arrival much later that day. Despite the claims of Eckert and others, McClellan could not have seen Order 191 at noon on September 13th.

Clemens also delves into an underappreciated aspect of the order, namely, what did it tell McClellan? The first two paragraphs were missing from the order which Clemens tells us were mundane administrative instructions. McClellan did not know this, only that that Generals Jackson, Walker, and McLaws were to join the "main body" of the army at Boonsboro. Since McClellan was already convinced he was outnumbered, and knew of Confederate cavalry east of Frederick, at Westminster, finding Order 191 did nothing to dispel his fears that the Army of the Potomac faced an opponent vastly superior in numbers. The fact for McClellan was that the order did not reveal the exact locations of Lee's widespread army nor its numbers.

And the order did not tell McClellan exactly where Lee was going. McClellan knew he was heading into Western Maryland - union cavalry and local civilians provided intelligence - and that the administration was urging caution. General Halleck was concerned that Lee could cross the Potomac and double back, potentially getting into McClellan's rear and threatening the capitol. At the same time, Pennsylvania Governor Curtin was issuing warnings that a huge army

was about to invade his state. These conflicting interpretations of Lee's intention called for sober judgement.

Based on the facts as they presented to McClellan, Clemens argues that he was not dilatory. General Lee did not think so, writing to President Davis on September 13th that McClellan was "moving more rapidly than convenient." Thus the early morning hours of September 14th found two union divisions moving on Turner's Gap, pursuant to orders issued before the cigars wrapped in the lost order were found.

The discovery of Special Order 191 was not the greatest single intelligence coup in military history, Clemens concludes. Indeed, it may not have been the greatest intelligence coup in 1862. The discovery ought to have prompted caution, but McClellan twice attacked an army he thought outnumbered his. A compelling argument.



2018 BATTLEFIELD TOUR

The 68th tour dates are April 26th-April 29th for the Atlanta Campaign Tour. The website will be updated soon. Please direct all questions via email using cwrt2018tour@chicagocwrt.org. Randy Doler 219-921-9532 and Brian Seiter 708-513-1865 are the tour co-chairs. Ed Bearss and Jim Ogden are the guides.

The base hotel will be the Holiday Inn Express in Kennesaw, GA. The address to the hotel is 2485 George Bushee Parkway, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144. The cost for the tour will be \$ 845.00 for double occupancy and \$ 1120.00 for single occupancy. The rest of the details will be published soon on the website. On to Atlanta!

GRAPESHOT



Here's wishing everyone a safe and happy Holiday Season!

The upcoming 2nd Friday lecture at the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will be Friday, Dec. 8th at noon, with Steve Rogstad speaking on "Sandburg's Lincoln: History or Historical Novel?" On December 2nd the museum will present "A Victorian Christmas." Included in that event will be a talk by author James S. Pula on "The 26th Wisconsin at Chancellorsville."

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

Leslie Goddard will present "Clara Barton" December 5th at the Frank L. Weyerberg Library in Mequon, Wisconsin. On Nov. 28th she's presenting "Mrs. Lincoln and Mrs. Kennedy" (with Laura Keyes) at the Schaumburg Library. On Dec. 21st she'll speak on "The Making of Gone With the Wind" at the Garlands of Barrington, part of the Harper College Lifelong Learning. For more information, visit her website at www.lesliegoddard.info.

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, Dec 3, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party.

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. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Pat McCormick on "The Irish Brigade"

Dec. 3rd, McHenry County CWRT: Holiday Party, featuring Leslie Goddard as "Clara Barton"

Dec. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Art Schumacher on "The Dashing Jeb Stuart"

Dec. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: David Dixon on "The Lost Gettysburg Address"

Dec. 14th, Lake County CWRT: Holiday Pot Luck dinner

Dec. 14th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party

Dec. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Roger Bohn on "Naval Operations During the Civil War"

Dec. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Doug Dammann on "Elmer Ellsworth and the Zouaves"

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Jan. 12th: Bruce Allardice on "The Battle of Ezra Church"

Feb. 9th: Larry Hewitt on "Confederate General Richard H. Anderson"

Mar. 9th: Robert Jenkins on "Peach Tree Creek"

Apr. 13th: John Marszalek, Nevins-Freeman Address

May 11th: Joseph Rose on "Grant Under Fire"

June 8th: Dennis Rasbach on "Joshua Chamberlain and the Petersburg Campaign"

Abraham Lincoln Bookshop

Their next Civil War related "Author's Voice" is noon, Dec. 1st. Bjorn Skaptason speaks with James S. Pula about his new book, Under the Crescent Moon with the XI Corps in the Civil War Vol 1: From the Defense of Washington to Chancellorsville, 1862-63. The book examines the legendarily unlucky XIth (who marched under the badge of a crescent moon) to separate fact from myth.

Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information.