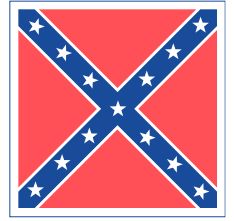


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Rob Girardi on

“Gouverneur K. Warren’s Last Battle: The General and the Historians”



Gouverneur Kemble Warren was one of the most important generals in the Army of the Potomac. During the course of the war, he rose in rank from Lt. Col., to major general. He played a vital role in the planning and conduct of every major battle from Chancellorsville the end of the war.

Warren led the 2nd Corps from after Gettysburg until March 1864 and the 5th Corps for 14 months after that. He fought in every battle during the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg, and led several independent actions until the battle of Five Forks, in April 1865. At Five Forks, Philip H. Sheridan accused Warren of dilatoriness in action and reluctance to fight. In other words, cowardice! Warren was unceremoniously removed from his command.

Prior to that, every commander he served under praised him—except two. These two, U.S. Grant, and Sheridan, were able to effectively stain our view of Warren in the history books. The misrepresentations of Warren’s conduct and character ever since has skewed the historical record resulting in an injustice to the

man and a flawed understanding of his role in the Civil War.

Robert Girardi earned his M.A. in Public History at Loyola University of Chicago in 1991. He is a past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago and a past vice president and newsletter editor of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table. He belongs to two other Civil War round tables in the Chicago area. He is a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and is an associate member of the Sons of Union Veterans. He is on the editorial review board of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society and was the guest editor of the 2011-

2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial issues. He was the winner of the 2010 Chicago Civil War Round Table’s prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award. In 2012 he was named to the board of directors of the Illinois State Historical Society, and sat on the board of directors of the Camp Douglas Restoration Society 2013-2018. In 2014 he was awarded the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table’s Iron Brigade Association Award for Civil War scholarship. He was an extra in the movie, Andersonville.



779th REGULAR MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, February 8th

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HOLIDAY INN O’HARE
5615N. CUMBERLAND, CHICAGO

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

ENTRÉE
BUFFET STYLE.



PRESERVATION NEWS

STAUNTON, Va. (WHSV) — The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation announced Thursday that they have preserved another 19 acres of a battlefield in the Valley.

On December 7, 2018, a crowd of about 30 dignitaries gathered on the cobblestones between the railroad tracks and the historic American Hotel in Staunton on Thursday morning to witness the announcement of the preservation of 19 acres in the core of the McDowell Battlefield just 26 miles to the west in Highland County.

The announcement and the unveiling of a map showing the tract's location within the 1862 Civil War battlefield was led by Keven Walker, CEO of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), as well as SVBF Director of Conservation John Hutchinson, and Col. Hugh Sproul, vice-chair of the foundation board and former mayor of Staunton.

The foundation is calling the acres the Levine Property ... and it's part of the McDowell battlefield west of Staunton in Highland County. The property sits on either side of Route 250 and according to the Foundation, it was an important part of the battle in May 1862.

"It's a place here in the valley where we can actually identify this war as being brother against brother. It's a very emotional spot, it's key to the battle, and we're very proud to have saved it,"

Walker said.

Walker said Staunton played an important role in the lead-up to the battle, which is part of the reason why they made the announcement in the city.

"Battles were fought around here as well," Walker said. "And the Battle of McDowell, the campaign that led to that battle, will kick off here in town. The troops who will fight in that battle leave from this very train station."

In March of 1862, Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson hurried much of his army to Staunton by train to confront a Union army approaching from the west.

Assembling his forces in the city, he raced west into the mountains of Highland County and clashed with federal forces on May 8 in the Battle of McDowell, which kicked off Jackson's Valley Campaign.

"A number of the wounded in the late battle near McDowell, arrived this morning," reads a quote from Joseph Waddell on May 10, 1862. "Also the corpses of eight of the slain, which lay at the Depot, boxed up, scarcely more noticed than bales of goods, so accustomed to such scenes have people become."

The foundation is hopeful the city will embrace the battlefield for tourism in and around the city. A member of city council said it's important for citizens to remember history, and that tourism

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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.



has been a focus for the city.

"It's important for our citizens to know about the past," Erik Curren, a member of Staunton City Council, said." It also helps our tourism, which brings in money and has been a big part of Staunton's economic development story in the past few years."

The foundation is the operating arm of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, designated by Congress in 1996 to preserve and interpret the region's significant Civil War battlefields and related historic sites. It encompasses eight counties and the cities and towns within them from Frederick in the north to Augusta in the south and Highland to the west. Within the National Historic District, Staunton is the crown jewel, said Walker.

In 2020 The Chicago CWRT will be doing its annual battlefield tour in West Virginia, and McDowell will be part of that tour.

JANUARY MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Bjorn Skaptason presented "Shiloh in the Steps of Henry Morton Stanley," at the 778th Regular Meeting of The Civil War Round Table on January 11, 2019. Stanley's memoir is on a par with the writings of Ambrose Bierce in describing what they both saw at Shiloh, Stanley portraying the first day's battle from the Confederate perspective, Bierce the Federal side on day two.

Born John Rowlands in Wales in 1841, Stanley was orphaned and sent to the workhouse. He left or escaped at 15 and took ship to the United States and landed at New Orleans. While working as a clerk for a cotton factor, he made the acquaintance of Henry Stanley, an Arkansas planter who eventually became a father figure and whose name Stanley adopted. Stanley relocated to the plantation on the Arkansas River, and when war came initially eschewed the conflict as not his fight. But when he received a package containing a petticoat, he joined the Dixie Greys, which became Co. E of the 6th Arkansas Regiment.

Stanley's unit retreated from Kentucky when Grant's campaign began and eventually reached Corinth, Mississippi. They were then ordered to march to Pittsburg Landing. Enduring a rainy night on April 5, 1862, he awoke on the day of battle musing that it was strange that Sunday had been chosen to disturb the "holy calm" of the woods. His mate Harry Parker and he put violets, symbolic of peace, in their hats.

Stanley described the "explosive

sound" of battle, the roar of muskets, the rolling of sound from adjacent regiments. Shortly after the sun came over the horizon his unit, in the center of the Confederate front, "crashed" into the enemy. He recalled the "appalling crash of sounds," the "startling and sudden series of fusillades." All the world seemed "one tremendous ruin." As they neared Prentiss's line, he saw the "blued bloused ranks in front," although the "lurid haze" prevented seeing their faces. They raised a yell, and a wave of voices "penetrated" their senses and filled them with a "noble rage." The Bluecoats vanished.

After a respite at the camps, his regiment moved to the Review Field and another line of camps where a "storm of bullets" met them. Bent bodies moving forward pace by pace, they swept across the field when Stanley was struck in his belt clasp and tumbled to the ground. When he recovered, separated from his unit, he found his belt "deeply dented and cracked." Going forward, he saw grim evidence of the ravages of war, a "mass of horrors." Stanley was sickened by the "field of glory" with its repulsive aspects, making him feel "it was all a glittering lie." He found war to be a "warp of society," summoning young men from them "to meet in the woods on a Sunday morning for mutual butchery." Stanley recoiled, feeling "a cruel deception" had been played on him. His angry thoughts caused him to think man was born for slaughter, that morality had stood aside as men were let loose in a "carnival of terror."

On the second day of the battle, Stanley was left behind and captured. Transported by boat to Camp Douglas, Stanley took up the government's offer to become a 'Galvanized Yankee'. Assigned to an artillery unit at Harper's Ferry, he became ill and was mustered out, according to his memoirs. Army records classify him as a deserter, giving Stanley the dubious distinction of having deserted both Union and Confederate armies. Undeterred, he joined the navy and served out the war honorably as a paymaster.

Stanley went on to work as a journalist and eventually gained fame as an explorer of central Africa and the search for Dr. Livingstone. But that Stanley was a man changed by war. He had become cruel, dark as a result of his experience. No longer the "sweet kid" who joined the 6th Arkansas to prove his manhood, he was "a rough guy," in Skaptason's words. Shiloh showed how that came to be.

(I recommend one view the Marc Kunis video on YouTube. Emotional enough in their written form, Skaptason's delivery enriches Stanley's words).



SAVE THE DATE!

The 2019 Battlefield Tour of Vicksburg will be May 2-5, 2019. Ed Bearss and Terry Winschel will be our guides—and you can't get better than those two! More information will be forthcoming.

GRAPESHOT



Due to recent snowstorms, the **Kenosha Civil War Museum's** Home Front Seminar was rescheduled to Saturday, March 16.

The next "Friday Lunch Box" event at the **Kenosha Civil War Museum** will be at noon on Friday, February 8th, with Tom Campbell speaking on "Fighting Slavery in Chicago--Abolitionists, the Law of Slavery, and Lincoln."

For more on programs at the museum, visit <https://museums.kenosha.org/civilwar/events/>

Leslie Goddard will present "Clara Barton, Civil War Nurse" Feb. 25th for McHenry Community College continuing education. Visit <http://www.lesliegoddard.info/calendar.html> for more details.

Bruce Allardice has had several articles published recently: "Murder in Arkansas: The Killing of Major Lauchlan Maclean," Civil War News, March 2019; "A Navy Man on the Fall of New Orleans," Civil War News, February 2019; and "A Quaker Goes to War," Civil War News, January 2019; "Ballplaying in Civil War Camps," online at www.protoball.org. For more on Professor Allardice's writings, visit www.civilwarbruce.com.

Rob Girardi will be presenting "Leadership at Forts Henry and Donelson" Feb. 12th at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, and Feb. 27th at the Old Glory SUV Camp. He will speak on "The Murder of General Bull Nelson" Feb. 20th at the Bridgeview Public Library.

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

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservations by Sunday, Feb 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

- Feb. 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Harold Knudsen on "The Schleswig-Holstein War of 1864"
- Feb. 6th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Ray Wilson on "Ellet's Marine Brigade"
- Feb. 7th, Milwaukee CWRT: Rob Girardi on "Gouverneur K. Warren's Last Battle"
- Feb. 12th, Southwest Michigan CWRT: Gene Salecker on "The Sultana"
- Feb. 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: David Keller on "Five Factors Impacting Confederate and Union Prison Camps"
- Feb. 19th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Lee White on "Bushwacking on a Grand Scale: Chickamauga"
- Feb. 20th, Starved Rock CWRT in Ottawa: Scott Buennemeyer on "Grant's Vicksburg Campaign"
- Feb. 28th, South Suburban CWRT: Michael Kirschner on "The 2nd Wisconsin"

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 O'Hare, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

- Mar. 8th: John David Smith and Michael Larson on "Dear Delia"
- Apr. 12th: Brad Gottfried on "Maps of the Fredericksburg Campaign"
- May 10th: John Horn on "The Petersburg Regiment: the 12th Virginia"
- June 14th: Greg Biggs, "The Nevins-Freeman Address: Logistics of the Atlanta Campaign"
- Sept. 13th: Janet Croon on "The War Outside My Window"
- Oct. 11th: Jim Lighthizer on "Battlefield Preservation"
- Nov. 8th: Ethan Rafuse on "The Valley Campaign of 1862"
- Dec. 13th: Dan Weinberg on "Artifacts I Have Encountered"

AUTHOR'S VOICE

The next Civil War-related program at Author's Voice will be March 21st at 3:30 pm (CST) when host Bjorn Skaptason holds a dialogue with historian Harold Holzer about his latest book, Monument Man: The Life and Art of Daniel Chester French. Visit <http://alincolnbookshop.com/> for more information on upcoming events.