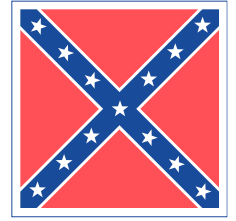


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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John Horn on: The Petersburg Regiment: The 12th Virginia



Known as the Petersburg Regiment because most of its companies came from the Cockade City, the 12th Virginia declined to have Stonewall Jackson appointed its first colonel. Its men first saw combat in naval battles, including Hampton Roads and First Drewry's Bluff. At Seven Pines, their first fight on land, they embarrassed themselves. They excelled during the Seven Days and at Second Manassas/Bull Run. Almost annihilated at Crampton's Gap, the regiment fielded only twenty-five soldiers at Sharpsburg/Antietam. The 12th distinguished itself again at Chancellorsville, but its role at Gettysburg remains controversial. In the Wilderness, it played a prominent role in Longstreet's flank attack as well as in his near-fatal wounding. Spotsylvania saw its men giving the bayonet to Burnside's Corps and capturing their first enemy flag. At Jerusalem Plank Road, they helped put to flight Hancock's Corps, the pride of the Federal army. They fought in defense of Petersburg at the battle of the Crater. At Globe Tavern they narrowly escaped destruction. At Second Reams Station they contributed to a miraculous Confederate victory. They captured three enemy flags at Burgess Mill,

which thwarted Grant's last thrust toward Richmond before Lincoln's re-election. They helped stop the Federals at Hatcher's Run in February 1865. Two days before the surrender at Appomattox, they participated in Lee's last victory--the rearguard action at Cumberland Church. By this time, they numbered among the Army of Northern Virginia's most renowned shock troops.

A native of Illinois, John Horn received a B.A. in English and Latin from New College (Sarasota, Florida) in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976. He has practiced law in the Chicago area since graduation, occasionally holding local public office, and living in Oak Forest with his

wife and law partner, H. Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Richmond, Virginia. They have three children. Horn and his wife travel to the Old Dominion each year to visit relatives, battlefields, and various archives. He has published articles in *Civil War Times Illustrated* and *America's Civil War*, and his books include *The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad* and *The Petersburg Campaign*. The talk tonight is based on his upcoming book on the 12th Virginia, and on the regiment's actions during the Petersburg Campaign.



782nd REGULAR MEETING

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, May 10th

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

HELP SAVE 73 ACRES OF 1862 CIVIL WAR BATTLEGROUND AT SHILOH AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN

From Jim Lighthizer: At the American Battlefield Trust, we work hard to make sure that every dollar you entrust to our cause goes as far as it possibly can. Sometimes, we have exceptional opportunities to do that. Today I'm writing to you about one of those exceptional opportunities. You see, if we can raise just \$103,000 in the next 45 days, we can build on past successes at the Shiloh battlefield in Tennessee and the South Mountain battlefield in Maryland to save 73 additional key acres of endangered hallowed ground.

Of course, this is not the actual cost of the land we're trying to save. In fact, if we had to pay its full value of \$709,500, we'd have no choice but to walk away. Fortunately, thanks to generous homeowner donations and matching grants, every dollar we raise from supporters like you will be amplified to \$6.89.

The Trust and other preservationists have already saved many acres of land at both of these battlefields, but development is a real and present threat that could compromise all that others

have worked so hard to protect.

After the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston sought to surprise the Union army under General Ulysses S. Grant near the Shiloh Meeting House on the morning of April 6, 1862. But Johnston would not live to see sunset that day, bleeding to death at 2:30 pm on the battlefield after being shot in the leg.

During the rainy night that followed, Federal reinforcements arrived, and Union gunboats relentlessly lobbed shells into the Confederate lines. When dawn broke on April 7, it was the Union army that attacked.

At the end of those two April days, nearly 24,000 casualties-killed, wounded, missing, or captured-made Shiloh the bloodiest battle in all American history up to that point in time. No one had ever experienced anything like it until September of that same year, when the bloodiest single-day battle in all of American history would occur along the banks of Antietam Creek.

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Darien, Illinois 60561
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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.

Three days before that fateful September 17th, Union General George B. McClellan was pursuing Robert E. Lee's Confederate army across the Blue Ridge in Maryland. Crampton's Gap was the most important of the three passes along the Blue Ridge.

Union General William Franklin was given the assignment of taking Crampton's Gap. He deployed his 12,000-man force to attempt to dislodge a few hundred Confederate defenders.

Eventually the Union army prevailed, and the Federals gained control of all three passes. Yet the stubborn resistance on the part of the Confederates bought Lee precious time to begin the process of reuniting his army, setting the stage for the Battle of Antietam three days later

APRIL MEETING

By Mark Matranga

Brad Gottfried spoke to The Civil War Round Table at its 781st Regular Meeting on April 12, 2019, on "The Maps of Fredericksburg." He points out that the Battle of Fredericksburg is more complex than what some suggest, namely, simple slaughter at the foot of Marye's Heights, and discusses in detail what perhaps was the more crucial component of the battle, the struggle at Prospect Hill between Reynolds and Stonewall Jackson.

Gottfried began his study with the observation that Ambrose Burnside, commander of the Army of the Potomac, had no interest in the position, taking command only when President Lincoln proposed appointing Joe Hooker, Burnside's arch enemy. The army was in good spirits after its effort at Antietam, and its ranks had been increased. The army's problem was the union high command, Lincoln and Secretary Stanton, who pressed Burnside for a strategy to take Richmond with all deliberate speed. Burnside positioned his army to move south as quickly as possible. However, he lacked sufficient pontoon bridges to cross the Rappahannock River; although General Halleck promised 80 bridges they did not arrive timely, allowing Lee to concentrate his forces to contest any crossing.

The Fredericksburg battlefield is set between Stafford Heights on the east and Telegraph and Prospect Hills on the west with the Lansdowne Valley between them on the west side of the Rappahannock. Both heights were fortified with artillery. When the pontoons finally arrived, two were placed on the north side of town, one

on the south side, and an additional two further downstream. General Barksdale Mississippi Brigade was ordered to defend the town against any attempt to cross the river and to give Jackson time to redeploy to Prospect Hill.

Initially, Barksdale succeeded; even after federal cannon opened up on the town, Barksdale's sharpshooters continued to fire from the rubble. It took a crossing under fire with infantry support for the union engineers to succeed. Once the first bridge was completed, union regiments flooded into the town and a street fight commenced. As more reinforcements arrived, the rebels retreated and Barksdale was ordered to withdraw by his superior, General McLaws. He refused to do so, complying only when threatened with court martial.

Meanwhile, Burnside had moved a substantial part of his army across the river by the end of December 12th. General Franklin proposed an assault by 60,000 men against the far right of Lee's line early the next morning before daylight; Burnside agreed and Franklin awaited orders which did not arrive until after sunrise on December 13th and which permitted a one division assault. Notwithstanding, he ordered Reynolds' Corps of 15,000 to make the attack in full daylight. But due to the heroics of John Pelham who fired into the union flank, only two divisions made the assault. These made considerable progress due to poor positioning of Gregg's, Archer's and Lane's brigades. But Jackson could count on reinforcements whereas Meade and Gibbon could not. The

confederates counterattacked and the federals, although being reinforced later, withdrew. On the north side of the battlefield, federal troops crossed a small water course, a mill race, the bridges across which had been destroyed. Once the stream was forded, troops were funneled into battle and faced confederates under Howell Cobb behind a stone wall and artillery on the Heights above. Union forces made 21 separate brigade attacks on Cobb's brigade, all of which failed. Only nightfall ended the carnage at the stone wall. Although Burnside's generals had disagreed with his plan, he insisted on their support. He insisted on attacking again on the 14th; this time his generals refused. Unfortunately, the administration insisted on a further plan, the infamous 'Mud March,' which led to Burnside's demise.

Gottfried's 'Maps of' series highlight battles as no others do. His outstanding maps and texts focus our attention and increase our understanding of these campaigns. Jefferson said "I cannot live without books." Civil War buffs cannot live without maps and always complain 'not enough maps.' Gottfried has supplied the remedy.



CWRT ELECTION!

The annual election of officers to the CWRT of Chicago's Executive Committee will be held at the June meeting. A slate will be presented by the Nominating Committee. As always, nominations from the floor are welcomed.

GRAPESHOT



The **Civil War Museum of Kenosha, WI**, is hosting the following public programs and workshops in May:

“I Have Not Wavered At All: Robert Gould Shaw’s Journey to the 54th Massachusetts”

Friday, May 10, 2019; Noon (2nd Friday Lunchbox Series)

Presented by Claire Herhold.

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

Leslie Goddard will present “Louisa May Alcott” May 4th at the First Christian Church, and “Clara Barton” May 13th at the Elk Grove Village Library. She’ll speak on “The Making of Gone With the Wind” May 15th at the Northfield Public Library. For more on Leslie, visit www.lesliegoddard.info.

Bruce Allardice had an article published in the May edition of Civil War News, titled “An Engineer to His Lady.”

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, May 5, 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

May 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT:

Rob Girardi on “Civil War Corps Command”

May 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT:

Bruce Allardice on “Damn the Torpedoes: Hi-Tech Rebs and their Infernal Machines”

May 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: John

Horn on “The Petersburg Regiment in the Civil War: the 12th Virginia”

May 14th, McHenry County CWRT:

Bruce Allardice on “Damn the Torpedoes: Hi-Tech Rebs and their Infernal Machines”

May 15th, Starved Rock CWRT in

Ottawa: Sarah Manz on “Quilt Symbols”

May 16th, South Suburban CWRT:

Dennis Doyle on “Illinois Regiments at Gettysburg”

May 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: **Jerry**

Allen on “Wisconsin-Hotbed of Secession?”

May 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: John

Scales on “The Battles of Nathan Bedford Forrest”

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

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

June 14th: Doug Dammann on “Elmer Ellsworth and His Zouave Cadets”]

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 “Musings of a Collecting Voyeur”

Jan. 10, 2020: Pam Toler on “Heroines of Mercy Street: Nurses in the Civil War”

Feb. 14: Connie Langum on “Wilson’s Creek”

Mar. 13: David Sutherland on “VMI’s Civil War Legacy”

Apr. 10: Michael Shaffer on “Recollections of the 1st Virginia Cavalry”

May 8: Wil Greene on “The Petersburg Campaign”

June 12: Brian Wills on “George Henry Thomas”

In Memorium

Longtime member Jim Patterson passed away recently. Jim was with us on a bunch of battlefield tours, and was always a ready story-teller.

Russell Lewis, chief historian and Executive Director of the Chicago History Museum, also passed away recently. Russell had been with the CHM for 32 years, was a Lincoln scholar, and helped our Round Table on several occasions.