



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Volume LXXXII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 2022

814th REGULAR MEETING, Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Garry Adelman on "Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"

**Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Dec. 9th, 2022, 07:30 PM CST.  
Zoom Option ID 845 3227 1496; No Passcode needed**

**NOTE: Visit the website for updates on the  
meeting location.**



Join American Battlefield Trust Chief Historian Garry Adelman for a lively photography presentation covering all manner of Midwestern events, people, and places. While the Midwest proper hosted a limited number of battles and campaigns, the Midwest states hosted hospitals, supply depots, manufacturing hubs, prisons, camps, railroads, and more! Midwesterners themselves played an outsized role in the conflict ... and where they went, so went photographers capturing images on glass and metal for a public hungry for this relatively new technology!

Combining then-and-now photographs, details, maps, and other media, Mr. Adelman will tell the story of the Civil War Midwest mainly through the revolutionary wet-plate photography process, the truly unique individuals involved in the birth of photojournalism and more. From Wilson's Creek to Johnson's Island, from Wood Lake to Cairo, Mine Creek, Milwaukee, Crown Point, Keokuk, Ann Arbor, and the Wigwam, come to understand the 1860s Midwest in a manner available nowhere else!

A graduate of Michigan State University and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, Garry Adelman is the award-winning author, co-author, or editor of 20 books and 50 Civil War articles. He is the vice president of the Center for Civil War Photography and has been a Licensed Battlefield Guide at Gettysburg for 27 years. He has conceived and drafted the text for wayside exhibits at ten battlefields, has given thousands of battlefield tours at more than 70 American Revolution and Civil War sites, and has lectured at hundreds of locations across the country including the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian. He has appeared as a speaker on the BBC, C-Span, Pennsylvania Cable Network, American Heroes Channel, and on HISTORY where he was a chief consultant and talking head on the Emmy Award-winning show Gettysburg (2011), Blood and Glory: The Civil War in Color (2015), and Grant (2020). He works full time as Chief Historian at the American Battlefield Trust.

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## **Battlefield Preservation**

### **Reclaim, Preserve & Restore Precious Land at Gettysburg**

We have an unparalleled preservation opportunity to help reclaim a piece of the Gettysburg Battlefield that witnessed monumental points in history, including Pickett's Charge and two World War camps!

The current owner of the property, who is relocating, wants to sell the Pickett's Buffet property. With your support, the Trust can help preserve it forever.



The Trust desires to restore the landscape, preparing the property for an interpretation and visitor experience that will attract heritage tourists for years to come.

It's a true win-win for everyone. But if we are unable to come up with the money, the current owner will be forced to sell to someone else.

I hope you'll participate in this special Giving Tuesday (11/29) opportunity to multiply your impact in saving irreplaceable battlefield land at Gettysburg before it's too late.

'Til the battle is won,

David N. Duncan  
President, American Battlefield Trust

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## November Meeting

By Mark Matranga

Past CWRT President **Mary Abroe** delivered the Nevins-Freeman Address, "Historic Preservation and Civil War Battlefields: An American Story," to The Civil War Round Table at its 813<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting on November 11, 2022. Dr. Abroe, a trustee of the American Battlefield Trust and a director of the Save Historic Antietam Foundation, focused not only on the original impetus and purpose for the founding of our national military parks but also the forces that have continued to shape their development to this day.

Dr. Abroe opened her talk by quoting a Wisconsin veteran who mocked those in his legislature who thought it a waste of money to pay for a monument no one in the state would see, saying, "It would not be to the credit of our good state to have no memorial to 9,075 soldiers in the siege of Vicksburg while our neighboring states of Minnesota and Iowa and Illinois (erected in 1906) have dealt so generously with theirs." State pride fueled placement of memorials on battlefields before after the turn of the century, but veterans placed monuments on them during the war, the most significantly Hazen's brigade monument at Stones River built shortly after the battle in 1863. Abroe pointed out a monument erected by confederate soldiers after First Manassas of which only the base remains. And cemeteries were created at Gettysburg and Antietam.

After the war ended, mainly northern states participated in remembrances. But as Reconstruction ended and the country entered the 1880s, the mood changed toward reconciliation. Reunions became common, veterans assumed positions of power in Congress and the movement grew to commemorate and preserve battlefields. The first National Military Park, Chickamauga-Chattanooga, was established in August 1890.

That same year, land was purchased to set out battle lines and troop positions at Antietam. Shiloh (1894), Gettysburg (1895), and Vicksburg (1899) followed, rounding out the 'Big Five'. All were designated National Military Parks under the War Department, a title intended to confer status.

This latter was significant for veterans such as Henry V. Boynton, Lt. Colonel, 35<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, who originated the NMP concept. For him as for all veterans, the battlefields held deep personal meaning; the founding generation felt that preserving the battlefields would help unite the country. Veterans also considered it important that battlefields be set aside for future study by professionals and for teaching history to the public. However, with the turn of the century funds for battlefield preservation dried up, veteran political power began to fade, and the movement lost focus and political clout. Further, administrative problems in the War Department slowed creation of new parks: from 1900 to 1925 only Kennesaw and Guilford Court House were acquired (1917).

The fiscal conservatism of the war years and thereafter ended by the late 1920s when funding for domestic projects became available. Numerous civil war military parks were created at that time, including Petersburg, Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania, Stones River, and Ft. Donelson. In 1933, a most important development occurred when President Roosevelt transferred administration of the parks to the National Park Service under its then Director Horace Albright. As Abroe emphasized, the War Department was not well suited to manage the parks, whereas the Park Service, already administering the western parks, was the proper steward, well suited to take a leading role in education and tourism.

Under FDR, military parks benefitted from funding and manpower, especially from the Civilian Conservation Corps. NPS provided supervision for infrastructure improvements, restoring structures, and for education programs. These programs continued through the 1930s; with WWII funding dropped, a condition which persisted through the postwar years into the mid-1950s. The postwar boom brought with it demands for travel which increased once the interstate highway system was built. In 1956, the NPS centennial plus the pending centennial of the Civil War prompted Mission 66, a 10-year focus on upgrading the parks with new visitor centers and wayside exhibits, a successful initiative.

But with the boom came development, starting in the late 1940s, even to remote and isolated locations. Sometimes at the borders but often well within the viewsheds of parks. With the end of the centennial funding for land acquisition again became elusive – only one NMP, Monocacy, was added in the 1970s. In addition, perceptions of history began to change and questions were raised as to the proper balance of what issues should be presented at the parks. Thus, Abroe reasoned, it was no surprise that the

infamous National Gettysburg Battlefield Tower was built in 1974. And no surprise that a mere ten years later a major shopping center near Manassas was not.

What happened? By the 1980s there was greater awareness of historic preservation. The grassroots efforts of Anne D. Snyder and the Save the Battlefield Coalition attracted major institutional and governmental backing and ultimately stopped the Manassas development. But as Abroe noted, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Manassas came at a high cost: \$134 million. This would not happen again; in the future it would take strategic planning to ensure preservation of historic land.

To that end, two key events occurred which established the modern preservation movement: the formation of APCWS (Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites) in 1998; and the Civil War Site Study Act of 1990 which established a commission to study the history and significance of Civil War battlefields and threats to their integrity and to advise Congress on how best to preserve and interpret these sites. In 1996, Congress passed legislation, the American Battlefield Preservation Program, providing for annual matching grants to state and local governments and private groups. It also established a private foundation which later became known as the Civil War Trust. Over time, the Trust and APCWS merged into the American Battlefield Trust, now dedicated to preserving Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites as well.

Mary Abroe is uniquely situated to instruct us on battlefield preservation. Her work with the Trust and SHAF has put her in the forefront of the movement. She is someone who has made a great impact in both the preservation of sites and education on a broad front on the need for preserving our heritage. In her words, to tell the story of battlefield preservation “is to trace the ways in which we have commemorated the war, responded to its tough issues as we’re still doing today, and use that past to deal with the present. Over the years, battlefields have been many things to many different people. They’ve been places for grieving, for remembering, for contemplating, for learning, for arguing. And one of the things as I see it that never seems to change is their ability to grab our attention and our concern.” They certainly grabbed Mary’s attention, and she has ours.



**BULLETIN BOARD**

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*Our in-person meetings are (usually) held at:*

**Holiday Inn O'Hare**

5615 N. Cumberland, Chicago, IL 60631

*Parking at the Holiday Inn is FREE*

Dinner \$40.00 Members and Non- Members

Cocktails at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30

Presentation only is \$10 per person.

The **Kenosha Civil War Museum** is putting on the following in-person/virtual programs:

**Friday, December 9, noon. “The Life of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the North’s First Civil War Hero.” Presented by Meg Groeling**

Colonel Elmer Ellsworth was the first Union officer killed in the Civil War. His life story is complex and fascinating, but it is also the story of many young men who fought and died for the Union. Elmer, however, was the first and – according to those who remember him – perhaps the best.

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

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## **More Upcoming Local Civil War Events**

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

Dec. 2nd, Northern Illinois CWRT: David Powell on "The Tullahoma Campaign"

Dec. 5th, Rockford CWRT: Bjorn Skaptason on "Illinois Light Artillery Batteries Throughout the Civil War"

Dec. 7th, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Nick Kaup on "The Sons of Union Veterans"

Dec. 8th, Milwaukee CWRT: Garry Adelman, "Midwest Civil War Photo Extravaganza"

Dec. 15th, South Suburban CWRT: Holiday Party

Dec. 17th, Salt Creek CWRT: Jan Rasmussen on "Civil War in the Northwest: The Dakota War"

Dec. 20th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Pat Brennan on "Gettysburg in Pictures"

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## **Future Chicago CWRT Meetings**

**Jan. 13th, 2023:** Rob Girardi, "POWs at Camp Douglas"

**Feb. 10th:** Charlie Knight on "Robert E. Lee"

**Mar. 10th:** Dwight Hughes on "Unlike Anything That Ever Floated"

**Apr. 14th:** Richard Holloway on "The Red River Campaign"

**May 12th:** Sean Michael Chick on "Grant's Left Hook: The Bermuda Hundred Campaign"

**June 9th:** Tom Cartwright, topic TBA

On Dec. 8th, at 3:30 CST, the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's** "House Divided" series of facebook interviews will feature Hampton Newsome talking about his new book, *Gettysburg's Southern Front: Opportunity and Failure at Richmond*. For more, visit <https://alincolnbookshop.com/a-house-divided-upcoming-shows/>

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**Ed Bearss Book award: Nominations Sought.** This Chicago CWRT award is for a new book or body of work of recent vintage that breaks new ground in our study of the Civil War.

The committee is seeking nominations that meet these criteria from the general membership. The committee consists of Rob Girardi as chairman, Mark Matranga, and Kurt Carlson. Several books have been put forth but we are seeking additional nominees prior to making a determination.

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## Special Meeting Giveaway

The CWRT will be giving away a **free Civil War book or item** to anyone attending the December meeting in person. A bonus for attending. And a way of saying thank you to our members.

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### From the Chicago CWRT's Past:

82 years ago, 12/1/1940: Percival C. Hart spoke on "Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign" (this was the first meeting of the CWRT)

40 years ago, 12/10/1982: Perry Jamieson spoke on "Artillery Tactics of the Civil War"

30 years ago, 12/11/1992: Peter Cozzens spoke on "The 21st Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge"

20 years ago, 12/13/2002: David C. Hinze presented "For Glory & Southern Retribution: Jo Shelby's Daring 1863 Raid"

10 years ago, 12/14/2012: Dale Phillips spoke on "The Red River Campaign"

A complete list of CWRT presentations is on the CWRT's website

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## Red River 2023 Tour Update....

Please note as of Thanksgiving we have 26 people signed up for the tour. The tour will be a one bus tour on a bus with a capacity for 56. Early registration for the tour includes a \$200 deposit to reserve your seat on the bus and a free Tour T-Shirt. After we have reached 56-person capacity there will be a wait list for the tour.

The deadline for Early registration is Feb 1, 2023 after which total tour cost will need to be paid.

In February we will be providing those people who have registered for the tour a sheet listing meal choices for our Lunches/Dinners at our Base Hotel, Kentwood Plantation, Merci Beaucoup Restaurant, Cane River Commissary, and the Tabasco Restaurant as well as meal options for a catered BBQ Lunch at the Mansfield Battlefield.



To register for the tour see Curt Thomasco at upcoming meetings for a copy of the Tour Itinerary and Tour Registration Form along with your deposit. Also please note that the Tour Itinerary and Tour Registration Form can be downloaded from the Chicago CWRT website and checks in the amount of \$200 made payable to the Chicago CWRT can be mailed to Rae Radovich at the address listed on the Form.

A link to a Suggested Reading List/Bibliography is available on the website as well for those who wish to read up on the Campaign.



**Happy Holidays!**