



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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Chicago, Illinois

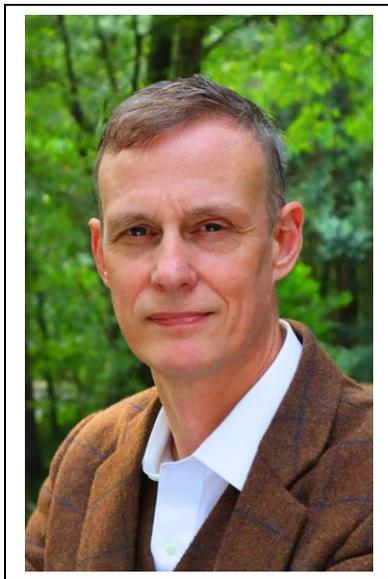
November 2023

822nd REGULAR MEETING, Friday, November 10th, 2023

Ernest Dollar on

"Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War"

**Live/Zoom Meeting. Time: Nov. 10th, 2023, 07:30 PM CST.
Zoom Option ID 845 3227 1496; No Passcode needed**



In the popular memory of the Civil War, its end came with handshakes between Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant in Virginia. But the war was not over. There was a larger, and arguably, more important surrender yet to take place in North Carolina. Yet this story occupies little space in the vast annals of Civil War literature. Reexamining the war's final days through the lens of modern science reveals why.

This final campaign of the Civil War began on April 10, 1865, a day after the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Over 120,000 Union and Confederate soldiers cut across North Carolina's heartland bringing war with them. It was the final march of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's effort to destroy Southern ability and moral stamina to make war. His unstoppable Union army faced the demoralized, but still dangerous, Confederate Army of Tennessee under Maj. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston. Adding to the chaos of the campaign were thousands of distraught and desperate paroled Rebels streaming south from Virginia. The collision of these groups formed a perfect storm for grief-stricken civilians caught in the middle,

struggling to survive amidst their collapsing worlds.

Ernest Dollar will explore the psychological experience of these soldiers and civilians caught this chaotic time that's captured in his new book, *Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War's Final Campaign in North Carolina*. Using an extensive collection of letters, diaries, and accounts, Dollar demonstrates the depths to which war hurt people by the spring of 1865. *Hearts Torn Asunder* recounts their experience through a modern understanding of trauma injuries.

Durham, North Carolina native Ernest A. Dollar Jr. graduated from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro with B.A. in History and B.F.A. in Design in 1993 and M.A. in Public History from North Carolina State in 2006. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve/North Carolina National Guard from 1993-1999. Ernest has worked in several historic parks in both North and South Carolina, including as executive director of the Orange County Historical Museum, Preservation Chapel Hill. He currently serves as the director of the City of Raleigh Museum and Dr. M. T. Pope House Museum.

Battlefield Preservation

THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD TRUST has launched a \$3 million national fundraising campaign to acquire the remainder of the former Gettysburg Country Club and remove modern structures, continuing a preservation process begun nearly 15 years ago in partnership with The Conservation Fund and National Park Service. Thanks to a generous major donor and other considerations extending the window for payment, the Trust must raise \$375,000 in private gifts by November 20, to take ownership of the property.

Located along the Chambersburg Pike between McPherson Ridge and Herr's Ridge, and just past Willoughby's Run, this 15-acre property saw intense fighting in the opening phase of battle on July 1, 1863. Last summer, this vestige of the Emmanuel Harman Farm was proposed for intensive residential development, but won a reprieve following significant local advocacy to save the site. Denied permits for a sprawling apartment complex, the landowner appealed the decision but the door remained open for the Trust to negotiate preservation scenarios

"Recognizing the community support for the addition of this acreage to the battlefield footprint, I am pleased that we were able to reach an agreement with the landowner, a regional development firm," said Trust President David Duncan. "This is a significant milestone, but much remains to be done before we can declare 'victory' and deem the entirety of the former Country Club property protected forever."

This preservation journey began in mid-2008, when the Gettysburg Country Club declared bankruptcy after decades of operations, and the site immediately became a top acquisition priority for the park and preservationists. Not only was it the scene of significant combat, but after the fighting moved east, a field hospital was established on the banks of Willoughby's Run, and at least 23 combatants were buried on what became the Country Club.

An initial sheriff's sale failed to find a buyer, and the entire site was secured by a housing developer. However, preservationists continued to negotiate behind the scenes and, in March 2011, The Conservation Fund, assisted by the Trust and other allied organizations, successfully transferred 95 acres of former golf course to the National Park Service during an event headlined by then Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

However, the portion of the property fronting the road, including modern clubhouses, tennis courts and a swimming pool had been subdivided out and was not included in the acquisition. While they were used for various recreational purposes over the ensuing decade, these amenities had gone unused for several years, and the site remained vulnerable to development. The looming threat came to a head last summer, when Cumberland Township considered development plans for a large-scale apartment complex. Local residents and preservation advocates came out in force to oppose the plan, and the local Board of Supervisors denied approval.

Although the developer appealed that ruling and worked to address the specific issues raised in the process, the door was open for preservation discussions. After months of good-faith negotiations, the Trust was able to secure a purchase contract and launch a multiyear \$3 million campaign to secure the property. After taking ownership of the property in November, the Trust will also begin envisioning landscape restoration plan that balances removal of modern structures and stewardship of historical resources dating to periods after the battle.

Over the past two-plus decades, the Trust has helped protect, restore and interpret nearly 1,240 acres across the Gettysburg Battlefield. Learn more about these projects and initiatives at [www. battlefields.org/enlivening-gettysburg](http://www.battlefields.org/enlivening-gettysburg) (from the latest issue of "Hallowed Ground")

October Presentation

By Mark Matranga

The Civil War Round Table featured Carlton Young at its 821st Regular Meeting on October 13, 2023. Young's topic, "Two Vermont Brothers in the Army of the Potomac," based on his most interesting book, *Voices From The Attic, The Williamstown Boys in*

the Civil War, takes us into the lives of the boys from a community in Vermont so small it had no newspaper and no rail connection to the outside world but who made up part of one of the most famous brigades in the Army of the Potomac. This rich tale is in the letters of the two brothers, William Henry and Francis “Frank” Martin. The letters contain not only descriptions of the actions the brothers participated in during the war but also analyses of those battles as well as the goings on of other soldiers from the Williamstown community.

The Martin brothers were sons of Chester Martin, a prosperous farmer who harvested willows used in manufacturing carriages and baskets. William, commonly known as “Henry” (born 1838) had received a formal education at the Barre Academy in Barre, Vermont. He was the more prolific writer of the two, primarily because he enlisted early in the war, in August 1861 when the Fourth Vermont Regiment was formed. Likely because he had completed a rather rigorous course of post elementary study, he was elected sergeant of Company B. The regiment was part of what became the ‘Old Brigade,’ composed of the Second through the Sixth Vermont Regiments.

Henry’s unit passed through Baltimore on its way to the Capital where he could see the animosity toward northern troops. This caused him to reconsider relations between the sections. But this attitude was overwhelmed later as disease and death began to invade the camps even before the regiment engaged in battle: over 60 men died; by December only 25 men in his company were fit for duty. Henry described disease and death in detail, remarking “these scenes we become familiar with & think but little of.” Eventually the brigade moved to the Peninsula under General McClellan in General Keyes’ VI Corps. Henry described unease having to leave wounded behind after his first engagement.

Henry’s later service found him at Crampton’s Gap and at Antietam where, “After the battle was the worst of sights,” he wrote, “the dead had to be piled in heaps.” This is the first documented account where corpses were burned. After Fredericksburg, Henry told his father “I’ve seen enough” after the attack in the Slaughter Pen. The Fourth Regiment then fought at Salem Church during the Chancellorsville campaign but missed fighting at Gettysburg. Afterward, Henry was injured at Funkstown, a shrapnel wound. While recovering, he became romantically involved with Laura Ainsworth and was secretly engaged to her. There were no letters documenting this affair, however.

Although then 30 years old, Francis Martin, now draft eligible, enlisted as a substitute on August 3, 1863, after which his letters commenced. He, too, had received a substantial education at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire. He had previously written the “Williamstown News” for the *Vermont Watchman*, a Montpelier paper. He continued doing this after entering service, under the nom de plume ‘*Conscript*’ wherein he provided analyses of army leadership and the spirit of the fighting men. Francis, now

with the Second Vermont Regiment, described the maneuvering in the Bristoe and Rappahannock Stations in his first submissions in November 1863.

The brothers, both serving in the Vermont Brigade, met with fate on May 5, 1864, in the Wilderness. Francis was wounded in the neck but recovered and was able to return to duty at Cold Harbor. But Henry, now a Lieutenant, suffered a severe chest wound and died on May 8. Francis suffered a disastrous lower leg wound at Ceder Creek in October 1865 and had his left foot amputated. He convalesced there and in Montpelier and was ultimately discharged on August 25, 1865. Francis died that October from an unusual accident on the farm when he was crushed by a large boulder he was trying to move.

The story of the brothers is only part of Young's tale. His book also relates the history of the town and has a rather detailed genealogical investigation into his family. This and the story of how he came upon the letters and then searched for additional documentation on the 'Williamstown Boys' is intriguing and worth investigating. And the letters having come down from the attic after so many years, that is truly a treasure.



BULLETIN BOARD

Our in-person meetings are currently held at:

Holiday Inn O'Hare

5615 N. Cumberland Ave, Chicago

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:

On Friday Nov. 10th at noon, Richard Kane will talk on "Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers with Jewish Heritage."

On Saturday, Nov. 18th, from 1-2 p.m., Tom Arliskas will speak on "Grant at Fort Donelson and Shiloh."

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

Kevin Wood will present “Lincoln and Thanksgiving” November 13th at the Glenview Public Library, November 15th at the Elmhurst Public Library, and Nov. 16th at the Westmont Public Library.

The South Suburban CWRT will not have a meeting in November due to scheduling conflicts.

More Upcoming Local Civil War Events

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

Nov. 1st, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Phil Angelo and Zack Nunamaker on “The Lee-Grant Debate”

Nov. 3rd, Northern Illinois CWRT: David Powell, "Grant at Chattanooga"

Nov. 6th, Rock Valley CWRT: Robert Evans, topic TBD

Nov. 9th, Milwaukee CWRT: Ernest Dollar on "Hearts Torn Asunder: Trauma in the Civil War"

Nov. 12th, Northwest Indiana CWRT: Father Bob Miller on "Vicksburg--Victims of Sickness and Disease"

Nov. 14th, Southwest Michigan CWRT: Steve Magnusen on “Rufus Dawes”

Nov. 14th, McHenry County CWRT: Greg Cole, topic TBA

Nov. 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Gene Salecker on "Vicksburg After the Fall"

Nov. 21st, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Bob Grenier on "Civil War Veterans"

Future Chicago CWRT Meetings

Dec. 8th: Scott Mingus on "Texans at Chickamauga"

Jan. 12th, 2024: Pat and Dylan Brennan on "Gettysburg in Color"

Feb. 9th: Carolyn Ivanoff on “The 17th Connecticut at Gettysburg”

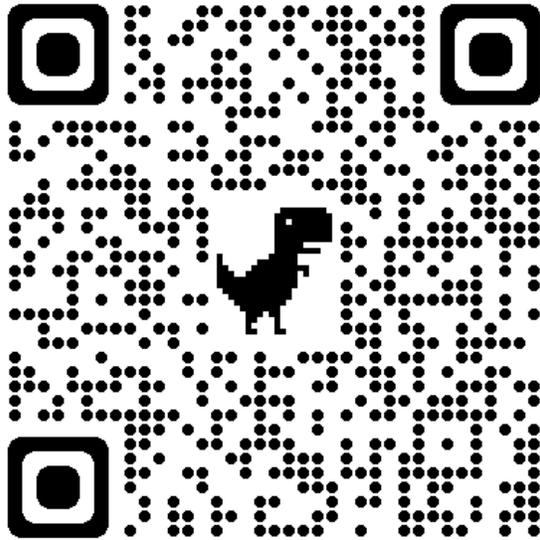
March 8th: Chris Bryan on "The Union XII Corps"

April 12th: Will Greene on “The Cracker Line and Chattanooga”

May 10th: Lynn and Julianne Herman on "The Allegheny Arsenal Explosion"

June 14th: Tim Smith (Nevins-Freeman Award) on "Vicksburg"

The **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop's** facebook page airs "Take a Break with History", every first and third Friday of the month at 1 pm CST. Their next "House Divided" author interview is November 21st, 3:30 CST, with Elizabeth Varon discussing her new book, Longstreet: The Confederate General Who Defied the South. For more, visit <https://alincolnbookshop.com/>



CWRT QR Code for instant access to the website