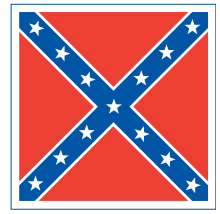


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXII, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May 2012



711th REGULAR MEETING

Bruce Holden Reid

on

“The Strategy of the Civil War”

★★★★★

Friday, May 18

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$45 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Chicken Casserole,

Baked Orange Roughy

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, May 16, by emailing dinnerreservations@chicagocwrt.org, or calling 630 460-1865 with the names of your party and choice of entrée.

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 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$12 with a validated parking sticker.

Brian Holden Reid on The Strategy of the Civil War

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Those of us fortunate to have read Amanda Foreman’s recent book, *A World on Fire: Britain’s Crucial Role in the American Civil War*, came away impressed with how a non-American perspective provides fresh insight into our nation’s “trial by fire.”

On May 18 the CWRT is fortunate to present internationally renowned military historian Professor Brian Reid of the University of London. He will speak on “The Strategy of the Civil War,” focusing primarily on the grand strategy North and South. When considering the North he will explore the importance of the Union blockade, the “Anaconda Plan,” the place of the

Border States and the vexed issue of war aims, that is, what was the war really about? When turning to the South he will focus on the feasibility of “cordon defense,” the defense of slavery and the desire to “take the war to the enemy” and its defensive–offensive focus, before finally turning to consider the first and most crucial error, “King Cotton” diplomacy. His overriding theme will be the importance



Brian Holden Reid

of good civil–military relations so that soldiers and civilians could work together in pursuit of a common aim.

Brian Holden Reid is professor of American history and military institutions, King’s College London, and since 2010 an academic member of College Council. He is an Honorary Vice President of the Society for Army Historical Research and served as a trustee of the Society for Military History, 2003–11, and, in 2004–10, a member of the Council of the National Army Museum, London. In 2004–5 he was the first non-American to serve on the

Lincoln Prize Jury Panel, and in 2007 he was the first non-American to deliver the Bottimore Lecture at the University of Richmond, Virginia, during the Lee Bicentenary. His books include *The Origins of the American Civil War* (1996), *Studies in British Military Thought* (1998), *Robert E. Lee: Icon for a Nation* (2005), and *America’s Civil War: The Operational Battlefield, 1861–1863* (2008).



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

Central Va. Battlefields Trust Buys 13 Chancellorsville Acres

By Scott C. Boyd

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, Va.

— “A spectacular preservation achievement — the most important CVBT accomplishment in many years,” said Robert K. Krick, retired Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park chief historian.

His online kudo referred to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust’s (CVBT) March 30 closing on its purchase of 13 acres south of State Route 3 for \$475,000. The land is on what is known historically as the Orange Turnpike, at its intersection with State Route 621, or Orange Plank Road, about eight miles west of Fredericksburg. Here Confederate Lt. Gen. Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s troops executed the flank attack that won the Battle of Chancellorsville. The National Park Service (NPS) already has extensive holdings on the north side of Route 3, but very little on the south side.

Added to the more than 45 acres the CVBT already owns in the immediate area, this brings its total there to over 58 acres.

“It took a long time to get it,” said Johnny Mitchell, chief negotiator for the CVBT with property owner Brenda S. Partain. “We both walked away from it a couple of times.” ...

Jim Campi, Communications and Policy Director for the Civil War Trust, listed the sources of the financing for the \$475,000 deal as the Civil War Battlefield Protection Program, which is administered by the NPS’ American Battlefield Protection Program; Virginia’s Civil War Historic Sites Preservation Fund; CVBT; and the Civil War Trust.

Brent said that a CVBT member who wishes to remain anonymous donated \$50,000 toward the deal. “He consid-

ered leaving it to us in his will, but then thought he’d rather donate it now,” according to Brent. ...

“CVBT deserves enormous credit for its patience and persistence in securing this critical property,” Campi said.

“Future generations will find the scene much as it looked in 1863, rather than covered with asphalt, nacho stands, and petroleum pumps,” said Krick.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust welcomes donations and memberships at P.O. Box 3417, Fredericksburg, VA 2240 or online at [2 www.cvbt.org](http://2www.cvbt.org).

C.W. Trust Announces Fundraising To Purchase Two Cedar Creek Parcels

MIDDLETOWN, Va. — The Civil War Trust recently announced a campaign to raise \$286,500 towards the \$1.3 million purchase of 77 acres in two parcels at Cedar Creek Battlefield — the Vermont Monument site associated with the pre-dawn Confederate attack and Rienzi’s Knoll, the first land associated with the Union counterattack.

The tracts are on opposite ends of the Oct. 19, 1864, battlefield. Trust president James Lighthizer said, “The chance to simultaneously and permanently protect both of these sites is truly remarkable. Projects like this, which will give the public an opportunity to explore previously inaccessible historic lands, is why the Civil War Trust is in the preservation business.”

The first property is a 12.5-acre tract near Belle Grove Plantation. In an attempt to buy time for the Northern lines to reform, a single brigade — outnumbered by some estimates 10-to-1 — was ordered forward into the Confederate advance and held its ground for a crucial half-hour.

One regiment, the 8th Vermont, lost 110 of its 164 men in the often hand-

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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.

to-hand fighting. A monument to the 8th Vermont, one of only three on Cedar Creek Battlefield, sits on the property the Trust is seeking to acquire.

The second tract of 64.5 acres, with an antebellum home, is on the northern end of the battlefield, where no land has previously been protected. It was here, after they had retreated five miles, that Union Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan rallied his men and launched a counterattack that nearly destroyed the Confederate army. The area where the rally took place became known as Reinzi’s Knoll, after Sheridan’s horse...

The Trust previously was able to secure three other properties totaling 74 acres on the battlefield, including two immediately adjacent to the Vermont Monument site, using grant funding from this source.

At the press conference announcing the acquisitions [Vermont Senator James] Jeffords’ former administrative director Jim Eismeier said, “To the people of Vermont, the blood spilled by our ancestors makes this truly hallowed ground.” Vermont’s heroic stand at Cedar Creek is depicted in a large mural that hangs in the State House in Montpelier.

From April and May’s *Civil War News*

April Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Marshall Krolick addressed the 710th meeting of the Civil War Round Table on "Riding for the Union: Memoirs of the 8th Illinois Cavalry." The regiment is noted for its defense of the ridges west of Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and for one of its officers, Lt. Marcellus Jones, having fired the first shot of that engagement. But Krolick has devoted some 35 years studying this storied unit, delving deep into the lives and wartime experiences of the personnel who made up what John Mosby called "the best cavalry regiment in the Army of the Potomac."

The 8th Illinois was organized by ardent abolitionist and former congressman John Farnsworth, its first colonel, in August 1861, from companies organized in Cook, DuPage and other northern Illinois counties. Members of the 8th were not born to the saddle; its roster was filled by farm boys familiar with horses or mules only from working behind them with the plow, and workers from the growing Chicago metropolis. By 1862 Farnsworth had been promoted to brigadier general but resigned in 1863 after being reelected to Congress.

Besides Farnsworth, there were other notables in the Eighth's ranks: a future governor who led the regiment at Gettysburg, John L. Beveridge; the brother of the publisher of the Chicago Tribune, William H. Medill, who was mortally wounded at Williamsport during the retreat from Gettysburg; and William Gamble, who

commanded the Eighth's brigade at Gettysburg and later rose to division command.

In the fall of 1861, the regiment moved to the Washington area where it was encamped. Abner Hard, regimental surgeon, wrote of the hardships the men suffered at Camp California: 25 per cent of the men were casualties during the winter of 1861-62. But once the campaign season began, the Eighth proved it was "miles ahead" in stealing horses and confiscating property for its use - horses and mules were known to disappear from confederate farms. The regiment was also notorious for such deeds as arresting confederate ministers and burning rebel newspapers. Lincoln called the Eighth "Farnsworth's Abolitionist Regiment."

Krolick offered many vignettes of the lives of men in camp and the observations both of men and officers of their leaders. General Stoneman was "no good"; Colonel di Cesnola a "jabbermouth Italian." The president was described as "homely as a mud fence." Medill, a journalist, was highly critical of McClellan but gave credit to Hooker for reorganizing the army after Chancellorsville. Initially, it was duty to country which caused the men of the Eighth to enlist - private interests were set aside for the greater good, the rebellion suppressed. But as the war progressed, attitudes changed. Slavery was seen as the sole cause of the war and the men felt it was God's purpose to exterminate slavery.

The 8th Illinois participated in the major campaigns of the Army of the Potomac, in the defense of Washington, and the Battle of Monocacy in July 1864. More famously, the Eighth engaged in operations against Mosby and his guerillas in Loudon County - by 1865 the Eighth had completely neutralized Mosby's activities. The unit participated in the hunt for John Wilkes Booth and formed Lincoln's Honor Guard as the president laid in state. The regiment mustered out on July 17, 1865.

After the war, John Stuart Bryan asked his grandfather, one of Mosby's partisans, whether all Yankees were cowards. The former Ranger replied, "Son, no one who ever fought against the 8th Illinois Cavalry could have had such an imbecilic idea as that." With high praise from peers and adversaries alike, in later years the men of the Eighth simply and poignantly reflected on their service: "I rode for the Union with the 8th Illinois Cavalry." Some 150 years later, Marshall rides with them, a passionate spokesman for his regiment.



The Civil War in Art

Seven Chicago cultural organizations are making nearly 130 works of art accessible to everyone online. Visit www.civilwarinart.org to view the image gallery, and take a look at the included essays and lesson plans for teachers.

GRAPESHOT



Larry Hewitt will speak on "Lieutenant General Richard H. Anderson, CSA" June 2nd at the Deep Delta Civil War Symposium in Hammond, LA

On May 8th Rob Girardi will address the Atlanta CWRT on "Railroad Defense in the Atlanta Campaign."

On May 11th the Center for History in Wheaton will host a "Civil War Fair" in honor of the Sanitary Fairs held in Chicago during the war. The event will feature exhibits and re-enactors, including "President and Mrs. Lincoln." Phone 630 871-6601 for more information.

On the weekend of May 19th Naper Settlement in Naperville is holding its annual "Civil War Days."

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.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Sixty plus years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

Upcoming Civil War Events

- May 2nd, Lake County CWRT: Gene Wells on "The Battle of Pea Ridge"
- May 2nd, Kankakee Valley CWRT: Forum
- May 4th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Tom Cartwright on "Cleburne's Brigade at Shiloh"
- May 5th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: "Baseball in the Civil War" by Gary Hetzel. Visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org for more details.
- May 8th, McHenry County CWRT: Don Purn on "War Prisoners of McHenry County"
- May 11th, Union League Club CWRT: Jason Emerson on "Robert Todd Lincoln"
- May 11th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: Tom Arliskas on "The Battle of Belmont"
- May 15th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: Dan Weinberg on "The Lincoln Assassination"
- May 17th, Milwaukee CWRT: Brian Holden Reid on "The Strategy of the Civil War"
- May 18th, Salt Creek CWRT: Frank Crawford on "In Defense of Burnside at the Bridge"
- May 24th, South Suburban CWRT: Gina Wysocki, "Lost and Found: The Mystery Behind Channahon's 14 Mile Fence"
- June 1st, Northern Illinois CWRT: Annual Banquet, featuring Craig Symonds speaking on "Joe Johnston"
- June 15th, Salt Creek CWRT: Annual Banquet, featuring Ed Bearss speaking on "Personal Milestones"
- Reminder: 2012 Tour**
(Chickamauga/Chattanooga)
May 3-6, 2012
- 2013 Tour - Antietam**

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated.*

May 18: Bruce Holden Reid, "Strategy of the Civil War"

June 8: Dennis Frye, "Antietam"

Sept. 14: Tom Schwartz, Nevins-Freeman Address

Oct. 12: Ed Bonekemper, TBA

Nov. 11: Dale Phillips, TBA

Bjorn Skaptasen of the **Abraham Lincoln book store** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be Saturday, May 12th, at noon, with **Jason Emerson** talking about his new book, Giant in the Shadows: The Life of Robert Todd Lincoln and **Ken Winkle** talking about his new book Abraham and Mary Lincoln. Visit www.virtualbook-signing.net for more details.

The annual CWRT election for officers will be at the May meeting. As in prior years, the nomination committee will present its selections, and members present at the meeting can make other nominations from the floor.