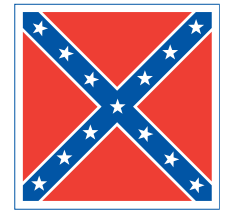


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 2005



## 640th REGULAR MEETING

KENT GRAMM

ON

LINCOLN AND THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

★★★★★

Friday, April 8

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.*

*Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

\$30 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée:*

*Chicken Casriel.*

*Catch of the Day or  
Vegetable/Fruit Plate*

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, April 4**, by calling 630-460-1865. We now also have a **new online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, April 6 will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

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 \$5 per person.

*Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$8 with a validated parking sticker.*

## KENT GRAMM

- on -

### A More Perfect Tribute: Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE



Kent Gramm

On November of 1863, the Gettysburg Cemetery Commission invited President Abraham Lincoln to attend the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg, where the thousands of men killed in that battle were being reinterred. The invitation asked the president to make "a few appropriate remarks" after the main speaker of the day, former Secretary of State Edward Everett, finished his two hour oration.

President Lincoln delivered those "few appropriate remarks" that November 19th. The brief, 272 word speech, delivered in a few minutes, has become perhaps the best known, and most quoted, address by any president. Tying the cause of Union to the Declaration of Independence, Lincoln boldly invoked the vision of the Founding Fathers of a nation "conceived in Liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal" and pledged "a new birth of freedom". Although hostile newspapers dismissed the speech as "silly", most observers at the time praised it. Said the Providence (R.I.) *Journal*, "We know not where to look for a more admirable speech than the brief one which the President made". The *Chicago Tribune* predicted "The dedicatory remarks by President Lincoln will live among the annals of man". To this day, best-selling authors write 200,000 word books analyzing this simple, direct 272-word prose masterpiece.

On May 8th Kent Gramm will speak on "A More Perfect Tribute," the subject being how Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address. Mr. Gramm will discuss some common misconceptions regarding the address, and attempt to place the address in its historical and philosophical context. Among the questions to be discussed will be: How much fact and how much fiction are in the well-known story of the President's composing the Gettysburg Address while on the train to Gettysburg? How might the Gettysburg Address be pertinent today?

Kent Gramm attended Carroll College, Princeton Theological Seminary, the University of Tuebingen (Germany), and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He has taught American Studies, Literature, and

Creative Writing at UW-Milwaukee, the University of Giessen (Germany), Indiana Wesleyan University, and Wheaton College. Kent is currently Program Director for the Seminary Ridge Historical Preservation

Foundation in Gettysburg, and is the author of four books related to the Civil War: *Gettysburg: A Meditation on War and Values*; *November: Lincoln's Elegy at Gettysburg*; *Somebody's Darling: Essays on the Civil War*; and with photographer Chris Heisey, *Gettysburg: This Hallowed Ground*.



## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

NPS Journal Provides Insights into Early History of Civil War Battlefield Preservation: Richard W. Sellars, an NPS historian working in Santa Fe, New Mexico, offers a fascinating and incisive summary of initial efforts to save Civil War battlefields in his recent article "Pilgrim Places: Civil War Battlefields, Historic Preservation, and America's First National Military Parks, 1863-1900." Appearing in the Winter 2005 issue of the biannual CRM: *The Journal of Heritage Stewardship* (a publication of the National Park Service), this piece focuses on the five Civil War preserves that constitute the foundation and nucleus of our national battlefield park network: Chickamauga/Chattanooga, Antietam, Shiloh, Gettysburg, and Vicksburg. Dr. Sellars is a long-time student of the Park Service's drive to preserve and maintain both the natural and cultural resources for which it is responsible; this piece is adapted from his current project, a book on preserving history in the national parks. Those wishing to read his fine work can acquire a free subscription to CRM *Journal* in one of three ways: online at [www.cr.nps.gov/CRMJournal](http://www.cr.nps.gov/CRMJournal); by e-mail at [NPS\\_CRMJournal@nps.gov](mailto:NPS_CRMJournal@nps.gov); or [DrMJMAbroe@cs.com](mailto:DrMJMAbroe@cs.com).

**Recipients of Donations from CWRT Preservation Fund Send Thanks:** At its February meeting, the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee voted to give \$500 each to the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Foundation and Save Historic Antietam Foundation (SHAF), the latter gift in support of SHAF's current effort to help the National Park Service at Antietam place historically accurate split-rail fencing along Branch Avenue at the south end of the field. At the same time, the committee also voted \$500 to renew the membership of the Civil War Round Table in the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT). Recently we received acknowledgments in the form of letters from Ron Elkins, Jr., president of the Wilson's Creek group; Tom Clemens, president of SHAF; and Jim Lighthizer, president of CWPT.

Ron Elkins sent his gratitude for our "gift of \$500.00 to be used in the continued work of the Foundation." He went on to relate that "since its establishment in 1950, the Foundation...has participated proudly in many improvement projects, assisting the National Park Service to secure the needed resources and develop the battlefield so that visitors can appreciate the events that occurred on a hot August day in 1861. Since its initial purchase of 37 acres on Bloody Hill, the Foundation has been actively involved in preserving the natural Ozarks setting that was the scene of this historic battle."

Tom Clemens of SHAF offered thanks "for the very generous donation. Your gracious contribution of \$500 is gratefully received...and will help immensely with our efforts... Our latest project, the new worm fence along Branch Avenue, will replace the old cement post-and-wire fence, greatly enhancing the scenery and interpretation of the field. A great deal of work has been done on the south end of the field and the newly-acquired land there [the 136-acre Shade Farm between Burnside Bridge and Branch Avenue] is looking better every day. A cooperative effort in November with SHAF and the NPS took out a large amount of small trees and brush, resulting in a much improved view of the 16th Connecticut monument. We plan to do some more tree-cutting there this month, and with the new fence in place, it should look great. I hope you all will have a chance to come and see it soon. Thanks again for your generosity and caring."

In his letter, Jim Lighthizer expressed his gratitude to the Civil War Round Table of Chicago: "As a recovering politician, it is not often that words fail me. However, right now, I cannot think of words strong enough to tell you how much I appreciate you for renewing your Color Bearer membership with the Civil War Preservation Trust! Your generous gift...speaks volumes to your continued commitment to preserving that ground where our history was

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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[www.thecwrt.org](http://www.thecwrt.org)

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact [webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org](mailto:webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org).

made. You directly have helped CWPT to save more than 21,000 acres of hallowed ground. I hope you are as proud of that fact as I am....(O)n behalf of the Board of Trustees and the staff, I thank you humbly for your overwhelming support. No two ways about it: You are the reason for our success." (Note: A restricted donation of an additional \$500 from an anonymous benefactor was added to the \$500 voted by the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee to allow us to renew our CWPT membership at the \$1,000-or "Color Bearer"-level.)

Finally, we also received a letter of thanks for our donation of \$300 from the Friends of Raymond (FOR), whose organization supports "preservation, management, and promotion of significant historical areas of Raymond [Mississippi]." Treasurer David McCain concluded as follows: "As highways and urban development continue their growth, more sites become threatened and pieces of history are lost. Timely action to preserve the past is essential. Your contributions and your interest are vital to the FOR in these preservation and interpretation efforts." Our September 2004 speaker, Parker Hills, is vice president of the Friends of Raymond; members of the CWRT and other battlefield tour attendees will have the opportunity to view the work of the FOR when they visit Raymond during the upcoming Vicksburg tour.

## MARCH MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On March 11th Bruce S. Allardice gave an informative and interesting speech entitled “The Vote to Win the War: The Election of 1864” before 91 members and guests at the 639th regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A past president of this organization, Bruce is the author of *More Generals in Gray* (LSU Press, 1995) and has written several articles for Civil War magazines. A very popular speaker for Civil War Round Tables, he is currently a history teacher. In his presentation, he claimed that the only legitimate chance for a Confederate victory was a Lincoln defeat in the 1864 presidential election.

Allardice began by insisting “the South never had a chance to win a military victory in the Civil War, that the decisive battle was Fort Sumter [April 12-13, 1861] because once the war began, the South had no chance of winning!” After stating several cogent arguments highlighting the South’s great disadvantages, the next thesis explored the possibility that a political event, such as the 1864 election, could have allowed the Confederates to attain a separate government. The 1864 election, pitting an antiwar Democratic Party against a prewar Republican president, was the one such occasion to determine war and peace.

On August 23, 1864, President Lincoln presented a note to his cabinet, asking for their signatures. The note was an admission that Lincoln felt that a real possibility existed that the Republican Party, and Lincoln, could lose the upcoming election. Lincoln was concerned that Democrats had made huge gains in several northern states in the 1862 elections. Lincoln thought that perhaps northern society rejected his prewar party.

Some startling facts concerning voting patterns of the 1860s emerged during the presentation. For example, few states in the 1860s allowed soldiers (or anybody else) to vote by absentee ballot. In 1860 only one state, Pennsylvania, allowed for absentee voting. Since few Americans in this era traveled, absentee balloting was not a major priority. Despite the practical

question of who would supervise the collection of absentee ballots, by 1864 most northern states had altered their laws to permit absentee ballots so that U.S. soldiers on the battlefields could vote.

The Democratic Party had controlled U.S. politics for most of the 40 years prior to Lincoln’s election in 1860. The Democrats felt a sense of entitlement toward the federal government and its policy, feeling that they, not the upstart Republicans, were the natural party of government. Their opposition to Lincoln was marked with mudslinging and extreme name-calling. Among other epithets, Lincoln was called “a baboon”, “buffoon”, “a radical fanatic”, and “ignoramus Abe”.

The 1864 Democratic candidate, selected in Chicago, was General George McClellan, erstwhile commander of the Army of the Potomac. President Lincoln had relieved him of command in 1862, following the battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862) when Lincoln claimed McClellan had a case of the “slows”. McClellan, a “War” Democrat, supported the war but opposed the Emancipation Proclamation. He wished to return to the U.S. of 1860, with no agitation over slavery, with the peaceful readmittance of southern states to the Union. The Democrats were divided between “Peace” Democrats who opposed the war, and “War” Democrats like McClellan. Many “Peace” Democrats thought a “War” Democrat like McClellan was hardly preferable to a Republican,

At this time “many Republicans viewed Abraham Lincoln as an anchor that threatened to drag the party and war effort down,” explained Allardice. Radical Republicans like abolitionist Wendell Phillips charged that the administration’s handling of the war was “a civil and military failure”. Extreme Radical gathered in Cleveland in 1864 to nominate John C. Fremont on a radical abolitionist platform. Other Republicans desired to replace Lincoln with a stronger candidate, General Ulysses S. Grant, the war hero. Grant declined any discussion of his candida-

cy for president.

In June, 1864, in Baltimore, President Lincoln was unanimously renominated as the “Union” Party candidate. A southern “War” Democrat, Andrew Johnson of Tennessee, was nominated as Lincoln’s running mate. The Union Party platform called for the unconditional prosecution of the war, and for a constitutional amendment to abolish slavery in the U.S.

In late August, 1864, the Democrats met in Chicago for their convention. The “Peace” Democrats passed the controversial “War Failure” plank, which claimed that the Lincoln administration had failed to restore the Union by “the experiment of war”. General McClellan, nominated for president, had “Gentleman George” Pendleton as his running mate. At this convention the Democrats paired a prowar presidential nominee with an antiwar vice presidential nominee and an antiwar platform. After some delay, McClellan accepted the nomination, but under his terms—that the war would still be fought. The antiwar Democrat platform induced Fremont to drop out of the race, consolidating Lincoln’s prowar support.

The Confederates were as disappointed with the McClellan nomination as the “Peace” Democrats. It was clear that the war would be prosecuted, no matter who was elected.

Lincoln was reelected that November with a sizable majority. Lincoln received 2.2 million (55%) of the four million votes cast. McClellan carried only three states—New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky. The Electoral College vote was 212 for Lincoln, 21 for McClellan. Lincoln received 78% of the soldier’s vote.

Allardice concluded by postulating that no possible election result would have changed the outcome of the war. Even if a “Peace” Democrat had been elected, Lincoln’s administration would have been in power until March 4, 1865. By then the war was clearly a Union victory. “By March, 1865, there was literally no Confederacy left to bargain with, and slavery’s death was an accomplished fact”.

## GRAPESHOT



The Illinois State Historical Society is sponsoring a symposium April 16th, titled **Race and Politics in Stephen A. Douglas's America**, featuring 6 speakers. The all-day seminar will be held at MacMurray College in Jacksonville. For further information, contact Dr. Christopher Young of MacMurray College, (217) 479-7114.

**Ulysses S. Grant's Grand Birthday Celebration.** A series of events are taking place in Galena April 15-17th in honor of General Grant, including a dinner, a grand birthday ball, talks, and period music. For more information contact Wendy Heiken of The Galena/Jo Daviess County History Museum, (815) 777-0336 or [www.galenahistorymuseum.org](http://www.galenahistorymuseum.org).

On April 11, **Larry Hewitt** will be speaking at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. His topic is "Lincoln, Leadership, and the Consequences of College Friendships."

On Friday, April 15, Major General Geo. H. Thomas (aka CWRT President **Jerry Kowalski**) will address the CWRT of Springfield on his activities during the Atlanta Campaign.

CWRT President Kowalski, in his capacity as National Chaplain of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will give the Invocation and Benediction at the Lincoln Death Day Services in Springfield April 15, and will conduct a Memorial Service at the tomb of the founder of the GAR, Benjamin Stephenson, in Petersburg, IL on Saturday, April 16.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at [bsallardice1@aol.com](mailto:bsallardice1@aol.com) or (847) 375-8305.

## SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

## SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by Ralph G. Newman and other members. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum raise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.

## NEW BYLAWS

The Executive Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago has approved changes to the bylaws that govern our round table. The changes are intended to update and modernize the bylaws and effect no substantive change in the way the round table operates. At the March meeting copies of the new bylaws were passed out. At the April meeting we will all vote on whether to approve the new bylaws.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago has come up with the following slate of officers for the 2005-2006 year:

**President**, Bob Miller  
**Senior Vice President**, Nancy Jacobs  
**1st Vice President**, Roger Rudich  
**2nd Vice President**, Steve Stewart  
**Treasurer**, Jerry Allen  
**Asst. Treasurer**, Rae Radovich  
**Secretary**, Tom Trescott  
**Asst. Secretary**, Donna Tuohy  
**Trustees, terms to expire in 2006:** Joellen Kowalski, Russell Lewis, Bob Carlson and John Van Dellen  
**New Trustees, terms to expire in 2007:** David Zucker, Marybeth Foley

## 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*.

*April 8:* Kent Gramm, "A More Perfect Tribute: Lincoln and the Gettysburg Address"

*April 28-May 1:* Annual battlefield tour—Vicksburg

*May 13:* Dan Nettlesheim, "Winfield Scott Hancock: Leadership and the Subordinate General"

*June 10:* Nat Hughes, "Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A."

## NEW MEMBERS

Thomas F. Pokrandt  
 1660 N. Prospect Ave. # 1005  
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

At a White House ceremony in February President Bush announced that historians **Allen Guelzo** and **Harold Holzer** are this year's first and second place winners of the prestigious **Lincoln Prize**, awarded by the Lincoln and Soldier's Institute at Gettysburg College. Guelzo won first prize for his book, *Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation: The End of Slavery in America*, and Holzer won for his book *Lincoln at the Cooper Union: The Speech that Made Abraham Lincoln President*. At the ceremony, actor **Sam Waterston**, who has portrayed President Abraham Lincoln on stage and television, gave a dramatic reading titled "Lincoln: Seen and Heard".