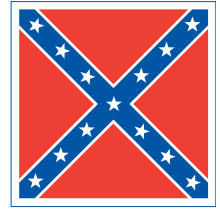


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

Volume LXIX, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November, 2008



675th REGULAR MEETING

Rick Hatcher

on

“Fort Sumter—1829 to 1947”

★★★★★

Friday, November 14

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$40 - Members/Non-members

*Entree: Roast Pork Loin,
Catch of the Day, Vegetarian
Plate or Fruit Plate*

please note

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Nov. 10** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing chicagoewrttdinner@earthlink.net with the names of your party and their choice of entree.

If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday.

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 \$10 with a validated parking sticker.

Rick Hatcher

on

“Fort Sumter—1829 to 1947”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

In 1829, the federal government began construction of a new fort to defend Charleston Harbor. Situated at the mouth of Charleston Harbor, Fort Sumter was one of thirty new coastal fortifications built in response to the War of 1812. Not only was it the site of the beginning of the Civil War on April 12-13, 1861, it was also the focal point of the 587 day Siege of Charleston - the longest siege operation of the war. The fort was heavily damaged by U.S. Army and Navy artillery during this operation and destroyed as an artillery post. Despite this, Fort Sumter remained a critical front line position in the defense of Charleston Harbor. After the war the rubble and debris was removed and the fort reestablished as an artillery fortification.

Fort Sumter continued service in the defense of Charleston Harbor and underwent modernization during the period between the Spanish-American War and World War II. In 1947, the Army closed Fort Sumter and transferred it to the National Park Service the following year, at which time it was designated a National Monument.

Rick’s program, “The History of Fort Sumter 1829-1947” will concentrate on the fort’s history during the 1860-1865 period. It will also cover its construction and use until its closure by the Army after World War II.



Rick Hatcher

A native of Richmond, VA, Rick Hatcher’s interest in the Civil War began during the 1961-1965 Centennial. In 1973, he graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a BA in U.S. History. Rick has worked for the National Park Service since 1970, beginning his career at Richmond National Battlefield as a volunteer and seasonal employee. Since 1992, Rick has served as the Historian at Fort Sumter National Monument, Fort Moultrie, and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site.

Rick is co-author of [This Hallowed Ground: Guides to Civil War Battlefields](#), [Wilson’s Creek, Pea Ridge, and Prairie Grove](#)

(University of Nebraska Press, 2006), and [Wilson’s Creek, The Second Major Battle of the Civil War and the Men Who Fought It](#) (University of North Carolina Press, 2000). The Wilson’s Creek book was a History Book Club alternate selection, and in 2001 earned the Missouri State Historical Society, History Book of the Year Award. Rick has authored many articles on the war, and has spoken to numerous CWRTs around the country.



Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee meeting: The next meeting of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee will be on Sunday, November 2nd at 1 p.m., at Rob Girardi's home, 8455 W. Berwyn 2nd Floor, Chicago. All members of the CWRT in good standing are invited to attend. Please contact Rob at (773) 693-7387, or at cvlwarguy@aol.com if you plan on attending.

Gettysburg:

An admission fee schedule proposed for Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and visitor center would include the museum for the first time. The \$7.50 fee for adults to see the movie, Cyclorama and galleries was proposed on August 28th and open to public comment ending September 29th.

Because of the pending fee changes, the \$12 admission that was to go into effect September 26th for the theatre and Cyclorama painting was rescinded. Instead, visitors over age 12 will pay \$7.50 for the two venues. That doesn't mean the proposed fees are being adopted, said Park Public Affairs Specialist, Katie Lawhon. It's just less confusing.

If the National Park Service and Gettysburg Foundation go ahead with the requested fees after considering the public comments, the \$7.50 admission fee will stay in place, but will include the visitor center museum. The proposal includes reduced youth and group rates. The park is receiving comments for and against the proposed fees. "Definitely we will read all of them," Lawhon said.

The old visitor center charged \$4 for the electric map and \$3 for the Cyclorama. Lawhon said the Cyclorama charge was not raised to \$4 because panels were removed for restoration. However, charging \$8 for the new 22 minute "A New Birth of Freedom" film wasn't successful. That ticket

was to go up to \$12 in September.

"Some of the feedback was that \$8 was too much," she said. The Gettysburg Foundation's pro forma budget projected 33 percent of the visitors seeing the film but only 18 to 24 percent of them did.

According to the fee proposal document, that meant a projected shortfall of \$1,784,780 in revenue for the two 150 seat theatres.

A family with two parents and kids ages 11 and 14, for example, would have paid \$28 at the \$8 (adult's) rate. At the \$12 charge this family would have paid \$43. Under the proposed \$7.50 package, the family would pay \$28 for three venues.

Lawhon emphasized that the battlefield and much of the visitor center, including lobby exhibits, resource room, appointments in the library and with collections and the refreshment saloon and museum store, remain free. A season pass with unlimited admissions is part of the proposal.

A majority of National Parks have some kind of fee, she noted, including for museum exhibit areas, "There's a very wide range for kinds of fee."

Some critics of the proposed fees note the GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN that said the museum would be free. "That's why we are taking it before the public to explain the need to charge the fee," Lawhon explained.

In addition to a September 18th public workshop, put its detailed fee structure proposal at www.nps.gov/gett (on the public involvement page under Park Management).

Who gets the money?

All of the ticket revenues go to the Gettysburg Foundation. "They operate the museum and visitor center on behalf of the Park," Lawhon noted. The Na-

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Des Plaines, Illinois 60016

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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 bsallardice1@earthlink.net.



tional Park Service pays for Park Rangers and Curatorial staff, while the Foundation covers every thing else.

She said the Foundation uses the revenues for operating expenses. These are spelled out in more detail in the fee proposal. Briefly, the Foundation's four obligations are:

- Paying down the long term debt, \$15 million in tax-free bonds;
- Operating and maintaining the facility;
- Establishing a building and equipment reserve fund; and
- Donating to the Park and National Park Service an equivalent of donations that former bookstore manager Eastern National made in 1998 when this plan was drawn. Those annual amounts are \$393,000 and \$420,000 respectively.

All information from October 2008 Civil War News

October Meeting

BY LARRY GIBBS

On October 17th **Gloria Swift** gave a stirring presentation on "Ford's Theatre Secrets Revealed!" before 81 members and guests at the 674th regular meeting of the CWRT of Chicago. Ms. Swift (sometimes known as Mrs. Lew Wallace) has worked for the National Park Service at Gettysburg, Harpers Ferry, and Monocacy. She presently works as curator at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site. In her presentation she made the artifacts at Ford's come alive.

The story of how the NPS obtained the core of the artifact collection reads almost like a fairy tale. After the Civil War Osborn Oldroyd began to collect articles from President Lincoln's life. Oldroyd lived in Lincoln's former Springfield home. He wanted to sense and feel and hold anything associated with Lincoln. Oldroyd charged people 25 cents to see the home, a charge which upset Robert Todd Lincoln, the president's son, and Oldroyd was asked to vacate.

In Washington D.C., the forerunner to the NPS had recently purchased the house Lincoln had died in, the Peterson House across from Ford's Theatre. Oldroyd asked to be the caretaker of the Peterson House. There he could store all of his Lincolnia, some 3000 items. In the 1920s Oldroyd sold his collection to the NPS for \$50,000. When Oldroyd died, his collection was transferred to Ford's Theatre.

Ford's is currently undergoing restoration, and will not be open for visitors until 2009. Among the artifacts that will be displayed there are John Wilkes Booth's derringer—the assassination weapon. When Booth shot Lincoln, he threw the derringer down in the presidential box before he jumped to the main floor of the theater. William Case, who was present at the assassination, loaned his knife to aid Lincoln's physicians. The next day he returned to the box to reclaim his knife and

found—Booth's derringer, which had somehow been missed in all the excitement. The fatal bullet is now at the Walter Reed Medical museum in Washington—to the chagrin of Gloria Swift!

Lewis Powell (Payne) was part of the Lincoln conspiracy. His saddle and Booth's boot are two other items on display. Lincoln's black coat was crafted by Brooks Brothers of New York. This suit was kept by a private party in an army chest for many years. In 1924 Brooks Brothers purchased the blood-drenched suit. Eventually, the suit and the remainder of Lincoln's clothing were sold by a private society to the NPS for \$25,000. Embroidered on the coat is the slogan "One country—one destiny." Ms. Swift noted that the embroidery represented 12 hours of work and a cost of \$8.00.

Sculptor Vinnie Ream needed the exact measurements of Lincoln for a now-famous statue of Lincoln in the Capitol Building. She used the Lincoln clothes from the NPS collection to be as close to reality as possible. The dress that Mary Todd Lincoln wore that night was eventually given to Ford's by the former slave and dressmaker, Mrs. Keckley.

During World War II the government, fearing attack or sabotage, stored many of the items in underground vaults.

Booth wounded two others besides Lincoln that fateful night of April 14, 1865. Major Henry Rathbone, a guest in the presidential box, was knifed from elbow to shoulder as he rose to grapple with the murderer. On stage, orchestra leader William Withers was stabbed because he was in the path of Booth's escape. Items from both men are part of the Ford's display.

Very few artifacts have been saved from the Peterson House, where Lincoln died. A bloody pillow and four bottles used as candleholders

that night have been gifted to the NPS.

Swift was especially gratified to discover an 1864 quilt which had separate panels with signatures of Lincoln and Generals Grant, McClellan and George Thomas. In 1948 the White House gave the silk quilt to the NPS. Swift concluded her presentation with a slide that stated "The end?—Absolutely not!!"

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from **Hal Ardell**, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net

On Nov. 6th the Glen Ellyn Public Library will host Professor **Rodney Davis** of Knox college in Galesburg, who will speak on "the Lincoln Douglas Debates." The program starts at 7:30 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Loyola University is hosting a symposium titled "Lincoln: A Question of Character" this November 8th from 9:00 to 1:30. Featured speakers include Kent Gramm and Douglas Wilson. The public is welcome. For more information, contact Ted Karamanski at tkarama@luc.edu.

Rob Girardi will present "General Impressions of the Civil War" to the Fox Valley Genealogical Society on Thursday, Nov. 13th.

GRAPESHOT



The **Salt Creek CWRT** will hold its annual book auction Friday, Nov. 7th, beginning 7:30 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn History Center. Proceeds will go to battlefield preservation. For more information, contact Rick Zarr at (708) 597-2780.

The **Northern Illinois CWRT** will host a presentation by Tom DeFranco this Nov. 7th titled "Gettysburg—What if Jackson Were There?" The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlington Heights Public Library and is open to all.

Author Jeffrey L. Patrick will be speaking on "Campaign for Wilson's Creek" at the **Blue Island CWRT**, 12804 Highland Ave., Blue Island, Tuesday, Nov. 18th. The event starts with dinner in the fieldhouse at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information, phone (708) 385-3304 or visit www.blueislandparks.org.

Ex-CWRT President **Bob Miller** did a podcast this summer for the Civil War Network (www.thecivilwarnetwork.com). He will be speaking on his book, *Religion in the Civil War*, to the Decatur CWRT Nov. 13th, and to the Bay City (MI) CWRT Jan. 12th next year.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@earthlink.net or (847) 375-8305.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Fifty-seven 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.

Veterans Day at Rosehill

Sunday, Nov. 9th, **Jerry Kowalski** will be conducting a service at 10:00 a.m. at the May Chapel in Rosehill Cemetery, Chicago, to honor the men and women who have sacrificed so much so that that we may live in freedom. Representatives of many veterans organizations will be present. **Bruce Allardice** will make a brief presentation on the Medal of Honor recipients buried in Rosehill.

In another Veterans Day remembrance, Jerry and JoEllen Kowalski will be speaking to the Waukesha (WI) CWRT on Nov. 11th.

Current CWRT Officers

Asst. Secretary and membership co-chair: Paulette Whitt

Membership/hospitality: Donna Tuohy
Inspectors General: Dave Zucker, Tom Trescott

Dinner reservations: Mary Beth Foley
Registrar: Rae Radovich

Ways & Means: Kurt Carlson
Battlefield Preservation: Rob Girardi

Honors: Marshall Krolick
Nevins-Freeman Award: Dan Weinberg

Nominations: Roger Rudich
Raffle/Boutique: Rob Girardi

Sites: Roger Bohn

Archives: Jacquie Wilson
Audio/Photos: Hal Ardell

Publicity: Janet Linhart

Membership Development: Rae Radovich
Site Recommendations: Bob Stoller

Newsletter: Bruce Allardice

Growth: Roger Rudich

2009 Tour—Steve Stewart, Roger Bohn

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*.

Nov. 14: Rick Hatcher,

"Fort Sumter - 1829 to 1947"

Dec. 12: Craig Symonds,

"Lincoln and His Admirals"

Jan. 9, 2009: Frank O'Reilly,

"Hidden Fredericksburg - the Battle We Thought We Knew"

Feb. 13: Nevins Freeman Address.

Bruce Allardice, "Lincoln as a War Leader"

March 13: John Latschar,

of the NPS Gettysburg, TBD

April 17: Stephen Wise,

of the Parris Island Museum, TBD

May 8: James Ogden,

"Rescue at Horseshoe Ridge"

June 12: Thomas Cartwright,

TBD

Bjorn Skaptason at the **Abraham Lincoln Book Shop** reminds us that the next "Virtual Book Signing" will be Nov. 10th, featuring Lincoln scholar **James McPherson** talking about his new book, *Tried by War. Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*. The event will be held at the McCormick Freedom Museum. Registration is required. For more information on this and upcoming events, visit www.virtualbooksigning.net or www.alincoln-bookshop.com, or phone the Museum at (312) 222-7871.

Our friends at the **Civil War Museum in Kenosha, WI**, are holding a Civil War Media Club Wednesday evening, Nov. 12th. The topic for discussion is Gettysburg, with Michael Shaara's novel *The Killer Angels* as the focus. For more information, phone (262) 653-4140 or visit www.thecivilwarmuseum.org. BTW, our website (www.thecwrt.org) features recent photos of the museum.