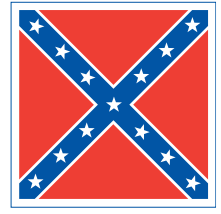


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXXIV, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 2013



723rd REGULAR MEETING

Mike Priest

on

“South Mountain”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, September 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA

350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$47 - Members/Non-members

Entrée: Roast Sirloin.

Baked Salmon.

Vegetarian Plate or

Fruit Plate

Please Note:

Make your reservations by Wednesday, Sept. 11, 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 7:15 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.

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

Mike Priest on South Mountain

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

After decisively repelling John Pope’s August 1862 invasion of Virginia at the Second Battle of Manassas, Robert E. Lee took the offensive. Moving north into Maryland, Lee divided his forces to capture Harpers Ferry while continuing his advance further into Union territory. George B. McClellan, the new Union commander, learned that Lee had divided his forces, and advanced to attack the Confederates. The armies, from squad to corps level, fought hard in both cavalry and infantry actions for control of the three gaps across South Mountain, about sixty miles from the Federal capital. The victory McClellan’s officers and men gave him forced Lee to fall back and regroup near the town of Sharpsburg, Maryland, thus setting the stage for the Civ-



Mike Priest

il War’s bloodiest day which soon followed at Antietam Creek.

On Sept. 13, John Michael Priest will examine those pre-Antietam engagements, focusing on the perspective of the ordinary soldier.

A retired school teacher, John Michael “Mike” Priest has been studying the Civil War since he was in grade school when his

parents took him and his brother to Gettysburg every weekend. A specialist in small unit tactics, he has authored or edited about 12 books on the Civil War, including Antietam: The Soldier’s Battle and Before Antietam: The Battle of South Mountain.



Battlefield Preservation

BY BRIAN SEITER

4-Min. Videos Premiere On Civil War Trust Site

(September 2013 Civil War News)

WASHINGTON — The Civil War Trust recently launched Civil War In4, a series of 4-minute videos on Civil War topics. When complete, the series, which opened with 13 videos, will have more than 50 videos.

Produced through a partnership between the Trust and Wide Awake Films, the series answers frequently asked questions about the Civil War.

“The whole project was conceived on three principles to reach as many Civil War enthusiasts as possible: basic, simple and short,” Trust president James Lighthizer said.

The format aims to appeal to a wide range from beginning to veteran students of the war. The series relies on a broad-strokes approach and an accessible, entertaining and factual presentation.

Trust director of history and education Garry Adelman said, “We would rather 500,000 people watch a 4-minute video, than 50 people watch a 40-minute video.”

Using his experience as a longtime battlefield guide, Adelman chose topics based on typical tour questions he was asked, along with a variety of questions the Trust received in e-mails, conversations and phone calls.

The current videos include army organization, artillery, infantry tactics, black soldiers, Confederate leaders, monuments, Union leaders and the Gettysburg Address.

Each video has a presenter. In addition to Adelman they are Peter Carmichael, Jared Frederick, Eric Jacobson, Hari Jones, Sam Smith and Tim Smith.

Viewers who desire more information can click on links to articles, primary sources and classroom materials.

“This new approach will bring the excitement and experience of learning about the Civil War to a whole new audience, who will discover why it’s so important to protect and preserve America’s hallowed ground,” said Adelman.

The series is available free on the Civil War Trust’s website at www.civilwar.org/in4

F’burg Developer’s Suit To be Heard

By Scott C. Boyd

(September 2013 Civil War News)

FREDERICKSBURG, Va. - A hearing will be held Sept. 6 on two motions for summary judgment in the lawsuit brought by the developer of the proposed 79-home Telegraph Hill subdivision. It is opposite the entrance to scenic Lee Drive in the Fredericksburg unit of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park.

Fredericksburg Park LLC filed suit against the City of Fredericksburg and a separate suit against the city council on Sept. 27, 2012, following the council’s 4-3 vote on Sept. 18 rejecting the development, which stopped the project.

As noted in a November 2012 CWN story, the National Park Service, Civil War Trust and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust opposed the plan.

The council’s resolution rejecting the proposed subdivision stated that it was incompatible with the 2007 Fredericksburg Comprehensive Plan and 2009 Lafayette Boulevard Corridor Study.

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1039 Hinswood
Darien, Illinois 60561
Phone: 630-460-1865
www.chicagocwrt.org

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.

The 2007 plan calls for a widening of Lafayette Boulevard where the subdivision and its access to the boulevard would be. The 2009 study recommended that the entrance to Telegraph Hill be located south of the Lee Drive park entrance, not aligned with it.

An order signed on Nov. 2 by Fredericksburg Circuit Court Judge Gordon F. Willis implemented an agreement by all parties that the city would be removed from the case and the city council would be the sole defendant. Both lawsuits were consolidated into the one against the council.

Fredericksburg Park LLC and the city council have both filed motions for a summary judgment by the court.

“Both sides contend that based upon the undisputed facts and the law and city ordinances they are entitled to a ruling from the court in their favor,” council attorney Jennifer Parrish told Civil War News.

These will be argued at the Sept. 6 hearing, according to Parrish.

If no summary judgment is given at the hearing, a two-day trial is tentatively scheduled to begin Oct. 9.

June Meeting

BY MARK MATRANGA

Professor **Timothy Smith** addressed the 722nd meeting of The Civil War Round Table on June 14, 2013 on “Corinth 1862.” In early 1862, Corinth was at the center of the war. It was the ‘key’ to the Tennessee and Mississippi river valleys: General Halleck considered Corinth and Richmond the “great strategical points” of the war; General P.G.T. Beauregard wrote that “if defeated here, we lose the Mississippi Valley and probably our cause.” Corinth’s importance was derived from its being at the crossroads of the two most important southern railroads, the Mobile and Ohio and Memphis and Charleston, the “Vertebrae of the Confederacy.”

Corinth has been overshadowed, most prominently by Shiloh. That battle produced significant casualties and involved some of the war’s most colorful personalities whereas Corinth produced little drama, despite there being some 120,000 federal troops involved in the siege. But Corinth was the climax of a campaign which began in February 1862, and was perhaps the determining factor in opening the Mississippi Valley.

Smith considers the Siege of Corinth misunderstood. There were several engagements albeit minor while the army was on

route. And Smith challenges the myth that Halleck ‘dug’ his way to Corinth. The army marched to within a few miles of its objective in two days when a constant rain interrupted its progress. After the confederate assault at Farmington on May 9th was repulsed, Halleck ordered his units to entrench. The historian of the 9th Illinois mentioned on May 10th of being “introduced to the spade.” The army moved in coordinated advances which ultimately caused Beauregard to evacuate the city. Smith refused to castigate the creole general for abandoning Corinth without a fight as he saved his army from destruction.

Corinth remained a confederate objective in October 1862 when southern forces moved to retake the city. The confrontation between Earl Van Dorn and William Starke Rosecrans again lacked the personalities and numbers of troops engaged as other battles fought at that time. But Corinth was a major prong of a multi-front offensive in the fall of 1862 which included the moves into Maryland and Kentucky. After initial success in rolling back union lines on October 3rd Van Dorn’s forces were pushed back by a reinforced federal army on the fourth. This mimicked Shi-

loh, but the union pursuit to Davis’ Bridge did not, and Van Dorn barely escaped.

After the October battle, Corinth became an occupied town. Escaped slaves flocked into town to the safety of the union garrison; Corinth became one of the most famous ‘contraband’ camps in the south. But the army abandoned Corinth in January 1863. The Memphis and Charleston had been severed to the east, and by that time southern distribution networks had moved further south, rendering Corinth of little strategic value.

Tim Smith made a compelling case for reevaluating Corinth’s significance in the civil war. Although somewhat neglected today, in the spring of 1862 there was no more important place in the south than Corinth, Mississippi.



Lincoln Colloquium

On Sept. 28th, Knox College in Galesburg will host the 28th annual “**Lincoln Colloquium.**” Featured speakers include Jen Weber, Doug Wilson, Tom Schwartz, Micahel Burlingame and Richard Carwardine. See www.knoxalumni.org/Lincoln for more details.

GRAPESHOT



The Annual Military History Education Conference, sponsored by the **Decatur CWRT**, will be Sept. 14th at Yoder's in Arthur. The featured speakers include our own **Rob Girardi** speaking on "The Murder of General 'Bull' Nelson," Stuart Sanders on "The Battle of Mill Springs," Chris Kolakowski on "The Tullahoma Campaign," and James Goecker on "Galvanized Yankees."

Rob Girardi will present "Illinois at Andersonville" at the Illinois History Conference in Springfield, Sept. 28th. On Sept. 19th Rob will speak on "General Impressions of the Civil War" at the Fountainview Library in Bolingbrook

On Sept. 14th the Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha will hold their 6th Annual Great Lakes Civil War Forum, featuring **Larry Hewitt** on "Port Hudson," Lance Herdegen on "The Sixth Wisconsin at the Bloody Railroad Cut," Dr. Betty Estilow on "The Hospital Ships of Vicksburg," and James Marten on "1863: Children, Youth, and the Year of Big Battles."

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 CD format. For pricing and a lecture list, please 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.

More Upcoming Civil War Events

- Sept. 4th, Lake County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "Baltimore Riots of 1862"
- Sept. 6th, Northern Illinois CWRT: Greg Biggs on "Fort Donelson"
- Sept. 10th, McHenry County CWRT: Frank Crawford on "Medicine on the Mississippi River"
- Sept. 10th, Bradley Public Library: **Rob Girardi** on "Odd Incidents of the War"
- Sept. 11th, Wood Dale Public Library: David Maas on "Du Page County and the Civil War"
- Sept. 12th, Milwaukee CWRT: John Michael Priest on "South Mountain"
- Sept. 13th, Kenosha Civil War Museum: **Jerry Kowalski** as "General Thomas"
- Sept. 17th, Lincoln-Davis CWRT: John Michael Priest on "South Mountain"
- Sept. 18th, Garland Center in Barrington: Jim Weren on "Women in the Civil War"
- Sept. 20th, Wood Dale Public Library: Nancy McCully on "Lincoln, Grant"
- Sept. 20th, Salt Creek CWRT: Fr. **Bob Miller** on "Notre Dame in the Civil War"
- Sept. 21st, Du Page County Fairgrounds: Annual Du Page County Militaria Show
- Sept. 24th, Garland Center in Barrington: Dr. Sarah Moats on "Reflections of the Battle of Gettysburg"
- Sept. 26th, South Suburban CWRT: Phil Angelo on "Shiloh: A Fresh Perspective and an Illinois Memory"

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.*

Oct. 11: William Cooper, "We Have the War Upon Us"

Nov. 8: Lawrence Hewitt, Nevins-Freeman Address

Dec. 13: Kevin Weddle, "Lincoln's Tragic Admiral"

Jan. 20, 2014: Rob Girardi, "The Murder of General William 'Bull' Nelson"

Feb. 14: Harold Knudsen, "General Longstreet"

March 14: TBA

April 11: Scott Bowden, "Last Chance for Victory"

May 9: Dan Bastian, "Grant's Canal"

June 13: Kenneth Noe, "The War in Appalachia"

On Sept. 28th, the **Sons of Union Veterans** of the Civil War will conduct a dedication ceremony at the **Plainfield Tp. Cemetery in Plainfield**, placing markers at the graves of 8 Civil War veterans buried there. The event begins at 10 a.m.



150 YEARS AGO – SEPTEMBER 1863



- 2nd:** Union forces captured Knoxville, Tennessee.
- 4th:** General U.S. Grant was injured falling from his horse. Observers claimed that it was because he was drunk – possibly with some justification.
- 6th:** Chattanooga was evacuated by the Confederates on the orders of General Braxton Bragg.
- 9th:** President Davis ordered 12,000 troops to Chattanooga, as he believed that the city could not be allowed to fall. They were to come from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.
- 12th:** General Leonidas Polk was ordered by Bragg to attack the Union's known positions south of Chattanooga. Polk refused to do so.
- 15th:** Bragg planned for an attack on September 18th. However, chaotic communications within the Confederate camp meant that there were delays in getting this information to the generals in the field.
- 18th:** Bragg issued orders to attack Rosecrans at Chickamauga.
- 19th-20th:** The battle of Chickamauga. After bloody fighting, the Confederates rout two of the three corps of the Union army. The senior Union corps commander, Major-General George Thomas stopped the rout from becoming a disaster by a valiant and well-coordinated rear guard action that earned him the nickname "The Rock of Chickamauga".
- 21st:** Union forces retreat to Chattanooga.
- 22nd:** Rosecrans informed President Lincoln about the scale of his defeat. Lincoln had put a great deal on capturing Chattanooga and viewed Rosecrans' failure as a bitter blow.
- 23rd:** Rosecrans informed Lincoln that he could hold Chattanooga unless he had to face a much superior force in terms of numbers.
- 24th:** Lincoln, believing that Chattanooga had to be held, ordered that 20,000 extra men should be sent there.
- 28th:** Rosecrans brought charges against two of his corps commanders - Generals McCook and Crittenden. Both were ordered to face a court of inquiry. Conditions in Chattanooga were becoming worse as food was in short supply.
- 29th:** General Grant was ordered to direct towards Chattanooga as many men as he could spare, to relieve Rosecrans' army.

CWRT of Chicago Battlefield Preservation Report

For the 2012-2013 year.

8/31/12 Fund Balance, \$8,767

6/30/13 Fund Balance, \$4,806

Preservation donations this fiscal year

\$10,000 Civil War Trust for Brandy Station (Sesquicentennial Challenge)

\$ 1,000 Shepherdstown Battlefield Preservation Association (Bearss Fund)

\$ 1,000 Save Historic Antietam Foundation (Bearss Fund)

\$ 500 Save Historic Antietam Foundation

Sesquicentennial Challenge—49 paid for a total of \$7,350

Bearss Fund—\$220 saved from last year's fund. Donated this year \$1,850 = \$2,070

Other Battlefield Preservation Fund income

\$1,680 Raffle

\$ 231 CDs

\$ 95 Bookshelf

\$ 20 Note Cards

\$ 315 Misc. Donations

\$ 805 Antietam Tour Raffle

\$ 343 Antietam Beer/Wine

Future Preservation

\$1,000 check for Chickamauga/Chattanooga preservation. Jim Ogden, head historian at the Chickamauga/Chattanooga NMP, has selected Reeds' Bridge on the Chickamauga Battlefield. This check will be written to the Civil War Trust.

The 16th Annual **Civil War Symposium at Cantigny** will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 2013. The theme of the symposium is "1863: The Tide of War Turns."

No registration fees will be charged for this year's Civil War Symposium, however participants still must register for this event. Boxed lunches are not available, although attendees can bring along a lunch, take advantage of Cantigny's two fine restaurants, or drive off-site for fast food or other restaurant options in the area.

The speakers and presentations include:

Michael Ballard, Mississippi State University
Atrocities at Milliken's Bend: U.S. Grant, Racism, and the Siege of Vicksburg.

James Downs, Connecticut College
Sick from Freedom: African-American Illness and Suffering during the Civil War.

Robert Girardi, Independent Scholar
The Union High Command at Chancellorsville.

Stephen Towne, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Fighting Desertion and Disloyalty: The Rise of Army Intelligence Operations in the Midwest in 1863.

The Soldiers' Encampment and outdoor activities are free to the public and continue through Sunday, October 6, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

To register, or for more information, contact the National Archives at Chicago at:

Phone: (773) 948-9001

E-mail: chicago.archives@nara.gov