



THE drum roll

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A crucial event in the development of Chicago

Friday, February 1, 2013, 7:30 p.m.

Arlington Heights Historical Museum
110 West Fremont Street, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Chicago in the Civil War

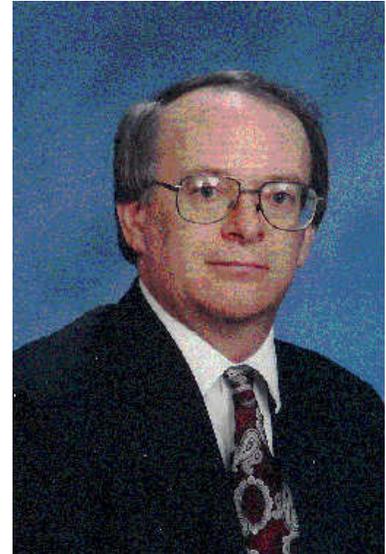
The Civil War was a crucial event in the nineteenth century development of Chicago. The war interrupted trade on the Mississippi River, resulting in St. Louis's losing its status as the nation's major grain distribution center and Cincinnati's losing its role as the pork-packing capital. Evolving into a major railroad hub, Chicago assumed this status from St. Louis and Cincinnati. The Civil War also led to Chicago's becoming a major financial center. By the end of the war, the city had 13 national banks, more than any other city in America.

Cook County sent 22,436 men to fight in the Civil War. The surrounding counties sent another 13,516 men. Nearly 4,000 Chicagoans died in the Civil War. The draft was little needed in Chicago because of its enthusiastic enlistment level. Chicago music publisher, George Frederick Root, wrote many patriotic songs, including *The Battle Cry of Freedom* and *Tramp, Tramp, Tramp*.

On February 1, 2013, Bruce Allardice will discuss the very interesting role Chicago played in America's Civil War. Allardice will begin with the 1860 election and follow through to the Lincoln funeral train streaming through Chicago. He will provide highlights of Chicagoland Civil War civilians as well as soldiers. He will introduce us to Chicago's great cast of characters, including Mary Livermore of the Sanitary Commission,

President Lincoln, General McClellan, Senator Douglas, Cyrus McCormick, and John Wilkes Booth. He will also provide some special material on the northwest suburbs and their part in the Civil War.

Bruce Allardice is a professor of history at South Suburban College. He is a past president of both the



Bruce Allardice

Civil War Round Table of Chicago and the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table. He has authored or coauthored six books and numerous articles on the Civil War. His newest book — just out — is *Two Years Before the Paddlewheel: Charles F. Gunther, Mississippi River Confederate*. It is the edited war-time diaries of Charles Gunther, an Illinoisan who was trapped in the South when the war started and served as an officer on a Southern steamboat to avoid joining the Confederate Army. After the war, Gunther returned to Chicago, made a fortune manufacturing caramels, and spent that fortune acquiring the historical artifacts that formed the core of the Chicago History Museum's collections.

All those who would like to join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. before the meeting on February 1 at Sam's of Arlington restaurant, 1863 W. Central Road, Arlington Heights, please notify me at (847) 985 1466 or at gaviganthomas@comcast.net by Wednesday, January 30. — *Tom Gavigan*

Please note changes in locations for both February meetings

To Meet Every Contingency

By Tom DeFranco

On Friday, January 3, I had the pleasure to address the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table about General George Meade's alternative plan during the 1863 Pennsylvania Campaign and more generally, his leadership at that important moment of the war.

The common image of George Meade is of a timid commander willing to just sit behind his defenses and receive attacks launched by Confederate General Robert E. Lee's vaunted Army of Northern Virginia. By contrast, Meade's image should be of a dynamic, flexible commander willing to investigate all avenues of approach to winning the campaign. Was he willing to defend? Absolutely — if conditions warranted a more conservative posture. Was he willing to attack? Absolutely — if he saw a decent opportunity.

The orders he received from Washington (only 3 days before the battle at Gettysburg started) were twofold. First, he was to keep in mind that he had to protect Baltimore and Washington, DC, from Lee's army. The other, equally important, objective was to keep in mind that he commanded the army of operation against Lee. Accordingly, Meade saw his first order of business as determining the locations of the corps of his own army. Immediately afterward he sought to identify and establish his base of operations. Within hours of assuming command he identified that location as Westminster, MD. Westminster offered both a direct turnpike and a direct railroad connection with Washington and Baltimore. Then he had to find a good location to defend that base.

That defensive line was found to be some eight to ten miles north of Westminster at its closest. The line would be behind (south of) the Big Pipe Creek. Big Pipe Creek ran for about 20 miles

from Manchester, MD, in the east to Middleburg, MD, at the western end. There was much to recommend it as a defensive position: It was a natural water barrier between the attackers and defenders, the defenders would be placed on high ground along most of the line, it covered all the north-south routes between Pennsylvania and Baltimore, and there were good lateral roads facilitat-

ing movement of reinforcements and communication. From the point of view of a commander who might want to remain flexible as to which posture to assume (offensive or defensive), the position was ideal. The north-south routes allowed for quick support by infantry for cavalry that might run into Lee's main body while also covering all the routes to Baltimore. So Meade was able to be aggressive as well as defensive simultaneously.

Of course, that is exactly what happened when General John Buford's two brigades ran into General James Johnston Pettigrew's brigade on June 30. Eventually, Meade chose to defend the ground at Gettysburg based on the advice

of his best subordinates. That did not stop him from looking for ways to attack, though. As late as the morning of July 2, he asked XII Corps commander, General Henry Slocum, to reconnoiter the ground around Culp's Hill for the feasibility of counterattacking Lee. It was not feasible, and Meade remained in a defensive position. And throughout the battle, he out-generaled Robert E. Lee, dishing out the first noteworthy tactical defeat to Lee in a major battle since Malvern Hill. Meade did not have a true independent command for very long, but he used that opportunity wisely when it mattered most.

I wish to thank those who attended my presentation. Again, it was truly a pleasure to reintroduce the round table to General George Meade.



General George Meade

Someone You Should Know

George Lee Schuyler, the first Ordnance Department agent sent to Europe to obtain arms for the Union, was born into a wealthy and noted family. His grandfather, Philip, was a general in the American Revolution. His father was a Congressman from New York. George married a granddaughter of Alexander Hamilton's, and when she died married her sister. Hamilton, it turns out, had married one of General Schuyler's daughters.

George Schuyler was a civil engineer and had interests in railroads and steamships, but is best known as a founder of the New York Yacht Club and part owner of the racing yacht *America*. As the surviving owner he gave the trophy, known as the America's Cup, back to the Yacht Club to serve as the prize awarded yet today for the winner of yachting's most prestigious race.

George's older stepbrother, Robert, was his partner in several ventures. Robert became president of several railroads, including the New York and New Haven and the Illinois Central, which hired a young lawyer named Abraham Lincoln. Robert, however, ran afoul of the law when he conspired to sell fraudulent stock certificates. He also was discovered to have kept a mistress using railroad funds and was suspected of being a bigamist. He escaped to Canada and on to England. Robert later wrote the directors of the New York and New Haven Railroad that his brother George had no knowledge of the fraud and should not be held accountable for his (Robert's) actions.

Robert died a little over a year later; his ill-gotten gains were never recovered. The body, or at least a casket, was returned to New York for burial. Many believed that this was another fraud. So strong was society's condemnation that his name was virtually stricken from record.

So goes the old saying: You can pick your friends, but not your relatives. — *Dave Noe*

Book Discussion Group

The Civil War book discussion group at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo Avenue (just south of Lawrence Avenue), Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10 until 11:30 a.m. The topic for February 2, 2013, is any book on President Abraham Lincoln.

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February Events

February 6, Lake County Civil War Round Table.

Doug Stiles will speak on his ancestor, One of Lincoln's Engravers.

February 8, Chicago Civil War Round Table.

Mary Abroe will speak on Charles Grosvenor, Colonel, 18th Ohio.

February 8, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI.

Tom Rafiner will discuss General Order No. 11, issued by the Union Army in August 1863 in response to William Quantrill's raid on Lawrence, Kansas. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

February 15, Salt Creek Civil War Round Table.

Bruce Allardice will speak on the Civil War in the Movies.

February 16 and 17, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI.

Civil War Medical Weekend includes programs and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers. Patricia Lynch will talk on the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, one of the first federally funded homes created to care for veterans after the Civil War, February 16, 1:00 p.m. Curator Doug Dammann will present artifacts from the collection of Surgeon Benjamin Franklin White, 1st Wisconsin Infantry, February 16, 3:00 p.m. Leslie Goddard will portray Civil War Nurse Clara Barton, February 17, 1:00 p.m.

February 22, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI.

Historian Steven Rogstad will introduce the 1940 film classic, *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*, comment during an intermission, and answer questions concerning its historical accuracy, 6:30 p.m., \$5.

February 23, Grayslake Historical Society.

Charles Banks will speak on the Lincoln Funeral Train, 2 p.m.

Women's Civil War Book Club

The next book for the Civil War book club for women is *The Notorious Mrs. Winston* by Mary Mackey. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Sunday, March 3, at 2 p.m. at the home of Kathleen Lange, 1458 East Olive Street, Palatine. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Denise Limburg at dlimburg@prodigy.net or (847) 382-1022, or Mary Banks at (847) 497-3149 or zeller1@comcast.net.



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Alonzo Cushing A Hero Forgotten by Congress

The other day I spoke to a new friend, Dave Krueger. His relative, Augustus Kastin, a member of the 36th Illinois Infantry, was killed at Stones River. Krueger is newly interested in the Western Theater of the war because of the discovery of his relationship to Kastin. He visited the Stones River National Battlefield Park on the 150th anniversary and felt the attendant emotions visiting the site where his ancestor fell in battle.

Then we started discussing the Civil War in general, and I discovered that he lives in Delafield, Wisconsin. That was Alonzo Cushing's hometown. Cushing commanded a battery in the

Army of the Potomac and was killed defending his post during Pickett's Charge. Cushing never received the Medal of Honor. There is a move afoot to try to rectify that oversight. I am beginning to work with Krueger on that topic. I think a petition to fix that oversight might be in order (as was done to fix the lines of sight at Chickamauga). What do you all think? — *Tom DeFranco*

February Saturday Discussion

All members and guests are invited to participate in the session to be held at the Hoffman Estates Community Bank, 1375 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates, on February 16 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The bank is on the south side of Palatine Road between Roselle Road and Barrington Road. Attendees are asked to park in the adjacent lot rather than in spaces provided for bank customers. Discussions will be held at the bank until Barrington Area Library renovations are completed.

A discussion of the Gettysburg campaign will begin. The discussion will be led by former president Tom DeFranco.

These discussions are generally held on the third Saturday of the month from September through June. They are held to generate and foster a free exchange of ideas on events that transpired during the Civil War.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee will hold a short meeting on Saturday, February 16, 2013, at 9 a.m. prior to the Saturday discussion group at the Hoffman Estates Community Bank, 1375 Palatine Road, Hoffman Estates. All who plan to attend please notify Tom Gavigan at (847) 985 1466 or gaviganthomas@comcast.net by February 13.

2012–2013 Speakers

March 1	Rob Girardi	The Murder of General William "Bull" Nelson
April 5	Tom Clemens	Antietam
May 3	Harold Knudsen	The Chattanooga Campaign of 1863: The Lost Victory
June 7	George Buss and Tim Connor	Lincoln–Douglas

To learn more about this Round Table call Sully Sullivan at (847) 259-5577
or visit our website at www.northernilcwr.org