



THE drum roll

Volume 33 318th Regular Meeting
Number 7 March 6, 2015

The Savior of Little Round Top

Friday, March 6, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

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

Gouverneur K. Warren



Robert Girardi

Iwonder how many of our members have been to Gettysburg, taken the tour, parked at Little Round Top, and had their picture taken with the statue of Warren there? It is a favorite place for group photos, tourist poses, and just plain “I-was-there” pictures. Here Warren earned undying fame on the afternoon of July 2, 1863, when he rode to the crest of the hill, looked out over the rugged ground to the west, and saw long lines of Confederate infantry approaching, with no Federals to meet them.

Warren commanded no troops that day, serving instead on Union General George Meade's staff. It was his function as Meade's chief engineer that brought Warren up that hill, surveying the key terrain of the Union left flank. Here he discovered that another Union general, Daniel E. Sickles, had

failed to secure Little Round Top. At once, Warren galloped off to find men to defend the vital height.

Among the troops he brought back with him, of course, were Colonel Joshua Chamberlain and the 20th Maine, who soon earned their own brand of renown on the rocky south slope of that prominence. In total, Warren rushed two brigades into position, and by doing so garnered the credit for being “the Savior of Little Round Top.” If he did nothing else in the war, that act would immortalize him.

There is little question that Warren was a highly intelligent, even gifted man. He entered West Point at the age of 16, graduating in 1850, second in his class. This ranking gained him entry into the antebellum army's elite topographical engineering branch. In 1861, as a native New Yorker, he served as lieutenant colonel of the famed 5th New York Zouaves, fighting in Virginia in 1861 and '62. He soon commanded a brigade in the Army of the Potomac, seeing heavy action on the Peninsula and at 2nd Bull Run.

Had a bullet found him on Little Round Top that day, doubtless Warren, like Union General John F. Reynolds (who was killed on July 1), would stand unblemished in Civil War lore. But Warren survived, going on to command an army corps under Ulysses S. Grant and Meade in 1864. He was at times a difficult subordinate. As the war drew to a close in April 1865, however, so too did Warren's career come to a shocking end, when he ran afoul of yet another Union commander, Philip Sheridan, at Five Forks.

Robert Girardi is a prolific historian of our Civil War. He has authored or co-authored ten books on the subject, working with many of the best names in the trade. His latest work, co-

Save June 5 for the annual banquet

authored with Paula Walker, tackles this fascinating, controversial figure. *The Soldiers' General: Major General Gouverneur K. Warren and the Civil War* is certain to be another fine addition to our understanding of the Army of the Potomac. Girardi is a detective with the Chicago Police Department, a member of numerous round tables, a ceaseless promoter of all things historical in the state, and a welcome friend to us at Northern Illi-

nois Civil War Round Table. Please join us for his presentation.

If you would like to join us for dinner with Rob Girardi at Sam's of Arlington restaurant, 1863 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, at 5:30 p.m. before the meeting on March 6, please contact Denise Limburg at dlimburg@prodigy.net or (847) 382-1022 by Wednesday, March 4. — *Dave Powell*

Civil War Movies

By Dave Corbett

On the evening of February 6, 2015, Professor Bruce Allardice of South Suburban College, an author and a member or officer of a number of Chicago-area round tables, presented *The Civil War in the Movies*. Relying only slightly on the aid of Power Point to illustrate the selected movie titles and to showcase the actors, the ever-affable Allardice stated that although there are almost one hundred Civil War or Civil War-related films, some even antedating the iconic silent film *The Birth of a Nation*, he would limit his focus to three films he considered indicative of not only the genre but also of generational interpretation of the themes of each.

The three films featured were the Hollywood mega-blockbuster *Gone with the Wind* (1939), *Shenandoah* (1965), and *Glory* (1989).

Allardice explained that *Gone with the Wind*, based on the best-selling novel of the same name, with an unprecedented media blitz (which actress

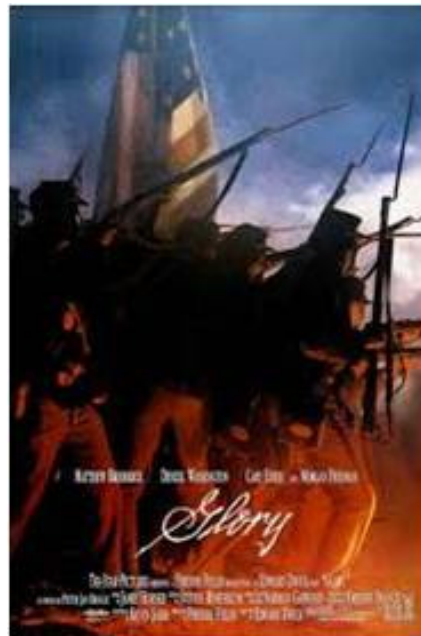
would portray Scarlett in the film?) and an Academy Award-winning cast (including Hattie McDaniel, who was cast as Mammy and who became the first African-American to win an Oscar) emerged not only as the most famous Civil War-themed film but also as one of

the top ten of the 100 best American films. Although critically and popularly acclaimed, the film was criticized for its portrayal of amenable slaves, a thinly veiled reference to the Ku Klux Klan, and its Lost Cause appeal.

Shenandoah, starring Jimmy Stewart as a pacifist, non-slave-holding Virginia farmer, reflected the growing disillusionment and antiwar attitudes of the 1960s. The film portrays the farmer trying



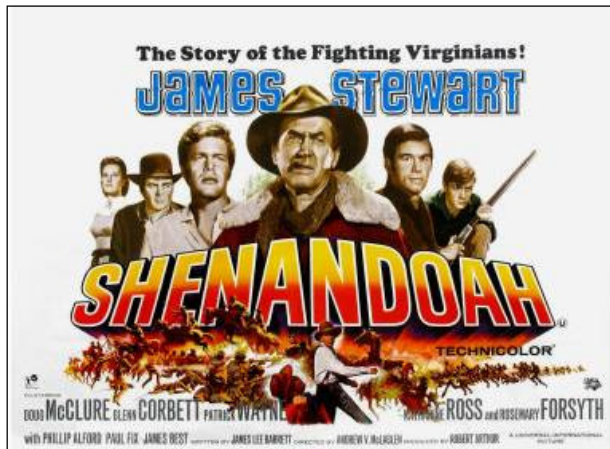
Gone with the Wind



Glory

to remain neutral in war-torn Virginia until the conflict affects his family.

From the antiwar *Shenandoah*, Allardice neatly segued to *Glory*, a war drama that brought to the large screen the story of the formation of the most famous of the U.S. Colored Troops, the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and the



Shenandoah

travails of its white colonel, Robert Gould Shaw. Boasting a solid cast, the film was well received and increased the African-American presence and perspective in the pantheon of Civil War filmography.

As Allardice opined in his all-too-brief discussion, he could talk about Civil War movies all night long. Perhaps another time.

March Events

March 10, Battlefield Balladeers will perform at the Palos Park Public Library, 12330 South Forest Glen Boulevard, 7 p.m. More information is available at <http://battlefieldballadeers.weebly.com/>.

March 11, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Lincoln Lore Discussion Group will cover Lincoln the Congressman, noon. Topics arise from the museum's collection of *Lincoln Lore Bulletins*, first published by the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in 1928. Links for downloading each session's *Bulletin* can be found at www.thecivilwarmuseum.org. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at (262) 653-4140 or www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.

March 12, Lake County Civil War Round Table. Dick Stilling will speak on President Abraham Lincoln's Assassination.

March 13, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Trevor Steinbach will speak on the Other Civil War Prison Camps in Illinois, noon. Program sponsored by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Iron Brigade Association.

March 13, Chicago Civil War Round Table. Thomas Huntington will speak on Searching for George Gordon Meade.

March 14–15, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Civil War Medical Weekend will feature living history, programs, and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War as presented by the surgeons

and nurses of the 17th Corps medical staff. Helen Miam will speak on Civil War Nurse Mary Ann Bickerdyke, 11 a.m., Saturday. Bob Kahn will speak on A Recipe for Success: Lizzie Kander and the Settlement Cookbook, 1 p.m., Saturday.

March 19, McHenry County Civil War Round Table. Ed Urban will speak on Colonel C. R. Ellet and the Sage River of the Queen of the West and Ironclad Indianola.

March 20, Salt Creek Civil War Round Table. Samuel Blackwell will speak on the 20th Illinois Cavalry.

March 21, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Civil War Expo will feature living history, heritage groups, and Civil War round tables from around the Midwest, who will present samples of their programming to introduce visitors to their Civil War interpretation, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Paul Johnson will speak on William W. Robinson, Colonel of the 7th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1 p.m. The Old Soldier Fiddlers will present a musical concert, 2:30 p.m.

March 25, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Lincoln Lore Discussion Group will cover Lincoln's Co-Workers and Staff, noon. Topics arise from the museum's collection of *Lincoln Lore Bulletins*, first published by the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in 1928. Links for downloading each session's *Bulletin* can be found at www.thecivilwarmuseum.org.



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March 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 Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Attendees are asked to park in the adjacent lot rather than in spaces provided for bank customers. The topic of the day will be the end of the war in Virginia, March–April 1865.

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.

In Memoriam

Word has been received of the passing of Michael S. Abroe, husband of member Mary Abroe, on February 9, 2015. We extend our condolences to his family.

February Raffle

The February raffle winners were Dick Onnen, who won *Eye of the Storm* by Robert Knox Sneed, donated by Emil Bahnmaier; Fred Reczkowicz, who won *The New Gettysburg Campaign Handbook* by J. David Petruzzi and Steven Stanley; Mike Brown, who won *The Civil War: A Visual History* book and CD; Bruce Allardice, who won *The Civil War: Mine Run to Meridian* by Shelby Foote; and Lynda Caselton, who won *Clouds of Glory: The Life and Legend of Robert E. Lee* by Michael Korda.

Congratulations to the winners and sincere thanks to the donors. To donate Civil War–related books or items, please contact Charlie Banks.

Women's Civil War Book Club

The next book for the Civil War book club for women is *Mrs. Lincoln's Rival* by Jennifer Chiaverini. The group will meet to discuss the book at 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at the home of Kathleen Lange, 1458 East Olive Street, Palatine. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Denise Limburg at (847) 382-1022 or dlimburg@prodigy.net, or Mary Banks at keller1@comcast.net or (847) 497-3149.

Book Discussion Group

The Civil War book discussion group led by Tom DeFranco at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo Avenue, Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10:00 until 11:30 a.m. On March 7, 2015, they will discuss *Bentonville* by Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes, Jr.

2014–2015 Speakers

April 3, Dr. Frank Varney will speak on General Grant and the Re-writing of History.

May 1, Eric Wittenberg will speak on John Buford at Gettysburg.

June 5, Chris Kolakowski will speak on the Naval War in 1864.

**To learn more about this Round Table call Jerry Allen at (847) 516-6429
or visit our website at www.northernilcwrt.org**