



THE drum roll

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War is always a catalyst for change

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

Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 North Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, Illinois

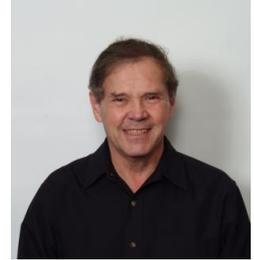
Why the Civil War Made Our Modern Food

How many people know that what we eat today, what we buy in our supermarkets, is the result of a war fought 150 years ago?

War is always a catalyst for change, and of all American wars, none changed the country more than the Civil War. That war accelerated trends and currents that were already going on, from economics to social conditions and cultural perceptions. For instance, would we have had a Civil War if not for intransigent political leaders who expressed the cultural thought, economic forces, and social structures of their various sections of the nation? So the first war with mass mobilization of men and materials broke out. And with it came what are now familiar effects: centralization of authority and economies into the hands of governments and larger business entities; technological change and intensification; and plenty of other new political and social ideas percolating through society.

All of these have to do with food production because, as Napoleon supposedly said, an army travels on its stomach. The North won the war because it produced more food (and arms) and organized its distribution better than the South. The ultimate result of all this was massive

changes in the way Americans grew, shipped, and processed food, and of course, in what they ate. What we eat today can be said to be a direct result of events of 150 years ago.



Bruce Kraig

Dr. Bruce Kraig is professor emeritus in history at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where he taught a wide variety of courses in history, anthropology, and popular culture. Kraig has appeared widely in the electronic media as writer and on-camera host and narrator for a multi-award winning PBS series on food and culture around the world.

His publications range from books and articles in academic journals on European and world pre-history through American history. Books about cookery and culinary arts include *The Cuisines of Hidden Mexico*, *Hot Dog: A Global History*, and *Man Bites Dog: Hot Dog Culture in America*. He was the weekly food columnist for a large newspaper group in suburban Chicago for 15 years.

Among hundreds of public talks he has given are the keynote address at a Pillsbury Bake-Off, Smithsonian Institutions' Museums on Main Street projects, and the keynote address at the Australian Symposium on Gastronomy. He has addressed the Library of Congress on food and baseball history and is the past and founding president of the Culinary Historians of Chicago.

If you would like to join us for dinner with Bruce Kraig at 5:30 p.m. at Sam's of Arlington restaurant, 1863 West Central Road, Arlington Heights, before the meeting on November 1, please contact me by October 30 at (847) 382-1022 or dlimburg@prodigy.net. — Denise Limburg

Please send dues payments to Tom DeFranco as soon as possible

The Army and Navy A Working Partnership

By Tom DeFranco

On Friday, October 4, 2013, Terry Winschel treated the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table to a presentation about a partnership that worked like a charm but is generally unsung when the great cooperative efforts of the Civil War are considered.

When conjuring up the images of great working teams of the war, the student might think of Grant and Sherman or Lee, Longstreet, and Jackson. Less considered is the smooth working relationship between Ulysses S. Grant and his U.S. Navy counterparts, Flag Officer Andrew Foote and later Admiral David Dixon Porter. The navy played a key role in the opening of the Mississippi River. It helped not only in capturing Vicksburg, but in operations from the battle at Belmont, Missouri, through Vicksburg and beyond.

The civilian effort also was important. James B. Eads, a civilian contractor, was called upon to build shallow-draft gunboats (to accommodate the brown water of the rivers). Thus was born the U.S. Navy city-class ironclad gunboats. The vessels were named in honor of cities situated along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The vessels were named the Cairo, Carondelet, Cincinnati, Louisville, Mound City, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis. These seven boats were built in a period of 5 months — and there would be more on the way.

In the early operations aiming to capture Forts Henry and Donelson, General Grant worked with Flag Officer Andrew Foote. They worked very well together. Fort Henry was primarily a navy operation; their shelling of the fort caused its surrender. The capture of Fort Donelson would require (to use an anachronistic term) “boots on the ground.” Thus the navy’s role there would be in support of Grant’s troops. In early April 1862,

while the battle of Shiloh was raging, Foote was working with General John Pope for the capture of Island Number 10. For these actions, Foote received an official “Thanks of Congress.” That was to be the end of Foote’s active career. In little over a year, he would die suddenly after accepting a blue-water command in the South Atlantic.

Later in April 1862, Admiral David Farragut ran his ships past the Confederate forts guarding the harbor of New Orleans and Forts St. Philip and Jackson. At his side was his brother by adoption, David Dixon Porter. Like Grant’s attempts to get at Vicksburg, there were some trials and errors. Farragut acted rather rashly in taking a pre-

mature stab at Port Hudson without waiting for the cooperation of General Banks’s forces opposite Port Hudson. Farragut would later have his day in the sun in the capture of Mobile, Alabama, in August 1864.

Porter, however, was instrumental in supporting Grant’s movements to the

east side of the Mississippi. He not only provided transportation across the river for Grant’s troops, but his naval forces also bombarded the Vicksburg defenses in preparation for the crossing, and the navy took test runs against the defenses to assure that the Vicksburg defenses could be passed without risking army lives. The result was a decision not to land at Grand Gulf but instead to land farther south at Bruinsburg. The crossing was the largest amphibious operation by American forces until D-Day in June 1944. Slightly more than 2 months later, John Pemberton’s army surrendered to Grant.

On behalf of the round table, I wish to thank Terry Winschel for an excellent presentation on an unsung partnership between, of all entities, the army and the navy.



City-class ironclad gunboat

November Events

November 2, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Dr. James Cornelius and Barry Bauman will discuss Lincoln Fakes and Forgeries, 3 p.m. Information on all Civil War Museum programs is available at www.thecivilwarmuseum.org or (262) 653-4140.

November 3, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Margaret Berres and Tom Ludka will discuss their research project on identifying Civil War veterans buried at Milwaukee's Historic Forest Home Cemetery.

November 5, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Ed Bearss will speak on the Significance of Gettysburg and Vicksburg, 7:30 p.m., \$15 (\$10 Friends of the Museums members). A catered dinner will precede the program, 6 p.m., \$35 (\$30 FOM members) for dinner and program; reservations required for dinner.

November 6, Lake County Civil War Round Table. Doug McFall will speak on General Frederick Lovell.

November 8, Civil War Museum, Kenosha, WI. Dr. Gordon Damann will discuss Camp Letterman, a hospital established after the Battle of Gettysburg, 12 noon. Sponsored by Iron Brigade Association and Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable.

November 8, Chicago Civil War Round Table. Lawrence L. Hewitt will give the Nevins-Freeman Address on Civil War Myths.

November 12, McHenry County Civil War Round Table. Don Purn will speak on Lincoln's McHenry County Civil War Soldiers.

November 15, Salt Creek Civil War Round Table and Glen Ellyn Historical Society. Robert Girardi will speak on Engineers at Fredericksburg at 7:30 p.m. Civil War books and collectibles will be available for purchase at 6:30 p.m. Glen Ellyn History Center, 800 North Main Street, Glen Ellyn.

November 16, Long Remembered: A Tribute to Lincoln's Life and Time. Elgin Choral Union, along with Elgin Symphony Orchestra, Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Barrington Children's Choir, will present music about and from the Civil War era at Elgin Community College Arts Center's Blizzard Theater, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, 7:30 p.m. Information is available at (847) 214-7225 or www.elginchoralunion.org.

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November 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, November 16, 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 discussion topic will be the second day at Chickamauga.

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

Book Discussion Group

The Civil War book discussion group led by Tom DeFranco at the Eisenhower Library, 4613 North Oketo, Harwood Heights, meets on the first Saturday of the month from 10 until 11:30 a.m. On November 2 they will discuss *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga (Civil War Trilogy)* by Peter Cozzens.

Women's Civil War Book Club

The next book for the Civil War book club for women is *Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker: A Novel* by Jennifer Chiaverini. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, time and location to be determined. 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. All members and friends are welcome.

Dues Are Due

Dues forms and checks should be sent to treasurer Tom DeFranco, 4844 North Ridgewood Avenue, Norridge, Illinois 60706-2941, as soon as possible. Dues for the 2013-14 year are \$55 family, \$45 individual, and \$5 student. A sustaining membership is defined by any payment over and above the normal rates. Deduct \$5 if you receive the newsletter by e-mail.



2013–14 Officers and Trustees

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Appointed Positions

Book Raffle	Charles Banks
Newsletter Editor	Sally Smith

October Raffle

The October raffle winners were Brian Seiter, who won *Hardluck Ironclad: The Sinking and the Salvage of the Cairo* by Edwin C. Bearss; Mary Abroe, who won *Yankee Quaker — Confederate General: The Curious Career of Bushrod Rust Johnson* by Charles M. Cummings; Larry Hewitt, who won *The First Volunteers: History of the First Minnesota Volunteer Regiment, 1861-1865* by John Quinn Imholte; Tom DeFranco, who won *Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah* by Tom Chaffin; and Pat McCormick, who won *The Guns at Gettysburg* by Fairfax Davis Downey.

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

To Contribute to the Drum Roll

All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Appropriate subjects include (but are not limited to) book reviews, family histories, travel reports, and recent research. Articles should be whatever length is necessary to cover the subject; those that are too long will be divided for insertion in more than one issue. If you have information to share, please send it to Sally Smith, 328 Eastern Avenue, Barrington, Illinois 60010-4629; telephone (847) 381-6486; or e-mail drum_roll4@juno.com.



2013–2014 Speakers

December 6	Charles Banks	U.S. Military Railroads
January 3	Wayne Rhine	Lincoln the Lawyer
February 7	Doug Stiles	Lincoln's Watch
March 7	Bruce Allardice	The Election of 1864
April 4	David Keller	Camp Douglas
May 2	Betty Kay	Three Illinois Women During the Civil War
June 6	Tim Smith	Corinth

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