



GENERAL ORDERS

The Newsletter of the
Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.

Our 61st Year

and The Iron Brigade Association



FEBRUARY 12, 2009

BRUCE ALLARDICE Lincoln as War Leader

In February the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee welcomes Bruce S. Allardice as our featured speaker. Mr. Allardice's presentation will examine Lincoln's leadership, both as a war leader and political leader, coming to some troubling, and perhaps surprising, conclusions.

Abraham Lincoln is regarded by many as our greatest President. An orator of unmatched eloquence, a savvy politician with a compelling personal story, Lincoln towers above his contemporaries. Like no other president in history, Lincoln's presidency was defined by the Civil War that began a month after he took office and continued after his death. Like no other war in American history, the Civil War forced the president to be aware of the military consequences of the political decisions he made.

Bruce S. Allardice is the immediate past president of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table, and past president of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A lifelong Chicago area resident and long-suffering White Sox fan, Mr. Allardice teaches history at South Suburban College. He has authored or co-authored five books, and numerous articles, on the Civil War, including *Texas Burial Sites of Civil War Notables*. His *More Generals in Gray* was a selection of the History Book Club. He had two books come out in 2008: *Confederate Colonels: A Biographical Register*, a biographical register of Confederate army colonels, and *Kentuckians in Gray* co-authored with Professor Larry Hewitt.

Mr. Allardice has presented numerous lectures and presentations on the Civil War and genealogy for Civil War Round Tables, museums, and civic organizations. He is the recipient of the CWRT of Chicago's prestigious Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished service in Civil War Scholarship and the CWRT movement. An avid sports historian, Mr. Allardice currently heads up the "Civil War Baseball" subcommittee for the Society of American Baseball Research and is a member of SABR's Biography Committee, specializing in researching the lives of 19th Century ballplayers. Mr. Allardice is a graduate of the University of Illinois and the University of Illinois School of Law.



Antietam, September-October 1862. Col. Delos B. Sacket, Capt. George Monteith, Lt. Col. Nelson B. Sweitzer, Gen. George W. Morell, Col. Alexander S. Webb, Gen. George B. McClellan, Scout Adams, Dr. Jonathan Letterman, Unknown, President Lincoln, Gen. Henry J. Hunt, Gen. Fitz-John Porter, Unknown, Col. Frederick T. Locke, Gen. Andrew A. Humphreys, Capt. George Armstrong Custer. Library of Congress, LC-B817-7915.

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February 2009

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FEBRUARY MEETING AT A GLANCE

February 12, 2009
 "Lincoln as War Leader"
 by Bruce Allardice
 Wisconsin Club
 9th & Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee
 (Jackets required for dining room)
 5:30 p.m. – Staff Meeting
 (Open to all members)
 6:15 p.m. – Registration & Social Hour
 6:45 p.m. – Dinner
 7:30 p.m. – Program
 Dinner – \$23 by reservation.
 Deadline: Monday, February 8, 2009
 See page 5.
 Speaker and topic are subject to change.
 In case of inclement weather, listen to
 WTMJ or WISN radio.

2009 Membership Cards

Membership cards for 2009 were mailed out to all renewed members in January. If you have renewed your membership and have not received your card please contact the Membership Chair, Paul Eilbes. If you have not renewed your membership, there's still time but you must hurry! This will be the last *General Orders* you will receive so don't delay, renew now!

Vandalism at Gettysburg

As reported on gettysburgdaily.com, on January 8, 2009, the Eternal Light Peace Monument at Gettysburg was terribly vandalized. Profane words and vulgar drawings have been spray painted onto the monument causing extensive damage. The Park Service has covered up the worst of the damage with plywood until clean up to the monument can be completed.

Since this is winter and the temperature readings are low, the normal solvents that would be used in a situation such as this are out of the question. Initially, park officials feared that they did not have the equipment to remove the graffiti but Park spokeswoman, Katie Lawhon, indicated otherwise. "I think it's a matter of power washing. We have that equipment. We've taken paint and oil off monuments before." There is no cost estimate for the repairs.

The Gettysburg Times in a January 26, 2009 article has updated the situation indicating that National Park Service investigators are teaming with area police departments to apprehend the vandals who defaced the monument.

Gettysburg Police Chief Joe Dougherty confirmed that his agency is working on a lead, but he was unable to release details, since the investigation is ongoing.

Gerry Hawk, Executive Director of AMVETS has called upon veterans organizations to subsidize the repairs to the monument, possibly through fundraising. "The Park Service estimates that repair costs will be high, but it is our duty to ensure that the Peace Light shines on as a symbol of our national unity, especially in a time of national instability and war," Hawks said.

The Peace monument was dedicated on July 3, 1938 on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The base of the monument is constructed from dark-colored granite from Maine while the rest of the monument is made of Alabama limestone.

For a view of the damage please visit www.gettysburgdaily.com. Click on the archives section. The photos and commentary can be found on the January 10, 2009 entry.

Civil War Soldier Remains Surface at Antietam

The remains of a Civil War soldier have surfaced at the Antietam National Battlefield. A hiker, cutting through a cornfield where soldiers were killed on the bloodiest day in American history, discovered bone fragments and a metal button clotted with red clay near a groundhog hole. The hiker brought the remains to the visitors center where they were turned over to experts who determined that the remains belonged to a Union soldier from New York State.

According to John Howard, Park Superintendent, the soldier was young, probably between 19 and 21 based on the condition of teeth in a recovered jawbone. A National Park Service archaeologist and Smithsonian Institution anthropologist were the individuals who confirmed he was a soldier. Howard indicated that individual identification is unlikely.

The last remains found on the battlefield were found in 1989 and belonged to four unidentified members of the Irish Brigade.

Howard indicated that the New York soldier's bones may be buried in the Antietam National Cemetery next spring after the Park Service and a forensic pathologist complete their examination. The Park Service will first contact the adjutant general of New York State to ask whether the state wants the remains.

Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 Passed

On Sunday, January 18, 2009, the United States Senate passed S.22, the "Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009." Included in the act was a section that authorized the National Park Service to conduct a Special Resources Study of the Shepherdstown Battlefield. The study is 1) to determine the national significance of the battle and site and, 2) to determine the suitability and feasibility of adding the Shepherdstown site to either the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park or the Antietam National Battlefield.

The act also authorizes the appropriation of such sums necessary to carry out the study.

SBPA thanks Senator Byrd and his staff for their continued effort to save and preserve the site of the 1862 Battle of Shepherdstown. The SBPA is now awaiting action by the United States House of Representatives.

For more information on the Battle of Shepherdstown please visit their website at: www.battleofshepherdstown.org.

Noteworthy News

Chicago History Museum

The Chicago History Museum will be host to one of only five known copies of the Gettysburg Address handwritten by Abraham Lincoln. The museum will exhibit the page and a half speech from April 1, 2009 to May 30, 2009.

Kenosha Civil War Museum

The Media Club at the Kenosha Civil War Museum is currently reading *Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson. A discussion of the book in an informal setting is scheduled on March 4, 2009 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the museum. You do need to pre-register. The cost is \$5 for members and seniors, \$10 for non-members. Contact the museum at 262-653-4141 to register. Please visit the museum website: www.the-civilwarmuseum.org for a complete list of upcoming events and programs.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **IN THIS MONTH • FEBRUARY** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

On February 11, 1861, Jefferson Davis received word that he was the new President of the Confederacy. On the same day, a train would leave Springfield for Washington. Aboard the train would be the President-elect and a party of 15. Lincoln addressed his hometown crowd for the last time.

On February 5, 1863, at Falmouth, Virginia, Hooker was busy reorganizing the Army of the Potomac into corps, eliminating Burnside's Grand Divisions. Eight corps were formed and the cavalry was placed in a separate command. This command arrangement would remain essentially the same for the remainder of the war.

February 13, 1865 found Sherman's army approaching the Congaree River in South Carolina which his troops would cross on the following day. Gen. William Hardee, commander of the Confederate troops in the area, advanced his preparations to evacuate Charleston and withdrew into North Carolina with the troops from Savannah, and what could be salvaged from Charleston. The Confederate naval ships at Charleston were ordered scuttled.



Raymond Dooley spoke to our group in February 1956 about the Early Education of Abraham Lincoln.

In February 1960 our speaker was Max H. Herriott speaking about Lincoln as Commander In Chief.

In January 1970 Joseph Eisendrath spoke to the group on the Myths About Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Frederick I. Olson spoke to our group in February 1987 about Lincoln Side Roads.

Bruce S. Allardice, this month's speaker, visited our Round Table in February 1997 and spoke about Generals: The Famous and Not-So Famous.

LINCOLN CORNER Springfield, Illinois

As to be expected, festivities will abound in Springfield, Illinois for Lincoln's Bicentennial.

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has released an event schedule for February 2, 2009 through February 15, 2009. There's something for everyone. An assortment of authors will be in Springfield presenting programs. Some of the programs will have live webcasts available. More than 20 authors will take part in a Bicentennial Book Fair. There will be events geared for all ages. Presentations of *Our American Cousin* are scheduled at the Springfield Theatre February 6 – 8, 2009.

For a complete list of the activities please visit www.alplm.com

Books, Books, and More Books

In this year of Lincoln there are several new books out for the young reader to enjoy:

Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek: A Tall, Thin Tale
by Deborah Hopkinson

Lincoln and Douglass: An American Friendship
by Nikki Giovanni

Two new books show the impact of Lincoln's words:

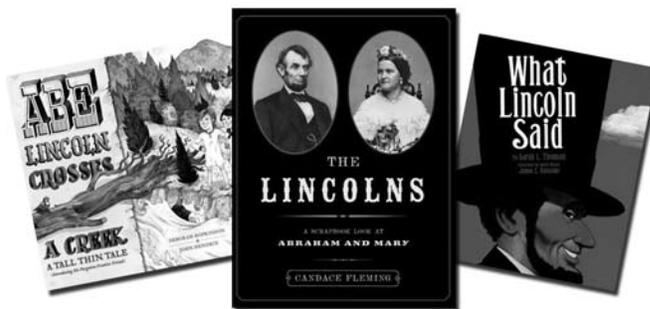
What Lincoln Said by Sarah L. Thomson. The author uses direct quotes from pivotal moments in Lincoln's life.

Abe's Honest Words by Doreen Rappaport. The author combines her own words with Lincoln's thoughts on a variety of subjects along with the Gettysburg Address.

Lincoln and his family are explored in:

Lincoln and His Boys by Rosemary Wells. The book focuses on Willie and Tad after Lincoln is elected.

The Lincolns: A Scrapbook Look at Abraham and Mary
by Candace Fleming.



Civil War Round Table Dinner Reservation for February 12, 2009

Mail your reservations by Monday, February 8 to:
Paul Eilbes
1809 Washington Ave.
Cedarburg, WI 53012-9730

ALSO, call in reservations to:
(262) 376-0568

Enclosed is \$ _____ (meal price \$23.00 per person) for _____ reservations for the February 12 meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. (Please make checks payable to the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc.)

Name of Member _____

General Orders, the official publication of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., is produced September through May and upon request of the Board of Directors.

Send submissions to **Donna Agnelly, Editor**, 420 Racine St., Unit 110, Waterford, WI 53185 or email to **dagnelly@tds.net** with "Civil War Round Table" in the subject line of your message. All submissions must be received by the Editor no later than the 10th of the month prior to the next issue. The Editor reserves the right to select articles and to edit submissions for style and length.

All address changes or problems receiving your *General Orders* should be directed through Membership Chairman Paul Eilbes.

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General Orders design and layout by Patricia A. Lynch.

Yearly memberships available: Individual (\$35), Family (\$45), and Non-Resident (\$20).

Contact Paul Eilbes for information: (262) 376-0568.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee, Inc., admits members of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges and activities of the Round Table.

CWRT of Milwaukee, Inc. • 2009 Meetings

February 12, 2009

Bruce Allardice:
Lincoln as War Leader

April 16, 2009

Steven Wise:
TBA

March 12, 2009

John Latschar:
Gettysburg

May 7, 2009

James Ogden: Chickamauga
Period attire welcome

Speaker and topic are subject to change. In case of inclement weather, listen to WTMJ or WISN radio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • EVENTS • MEETINGS

February 9, 2009

Manitowoc Civil War Round Table, 7 p.m.
Manitowoc Historical Society Heritage Center

February 17, 2009

Prairieville Irregulars, 7 p.m.
Board Room, Student Center Building, Carroll University
Speaker: Tom Finley
Battle of Chancellorsville

February 28, 2009

Second Inauguration Ball for Our Sixteenth President, 7 p.m.
Marian Center for Nonprofits
Information: 414-427-3776 or friends@FOROH.org