

THE CIVIL WAR REPORTER



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 6

TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2011

MCHENRY, ILLINOIS 60051

PRESENTATION

AT

The Woodstock Library
440 West Judd Street
Woodstock, Illinois

**LONGSTREET
IN EAST TENNESSEE**

By Bill Grey

TUESDAY JUNE 14, 2011

7:00PM to 8:30PM

**MCCWRT / DR. ED WILT SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS AWARDS PRESENTATION**

MCHENRY COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SUBSCRIBES TO
AND IS A PROUD MEMBER OF

NICCWRT

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS COALITION
OF CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLES**



SUBSCRIBING ROUND TABLES

McHenry County Civil War Round Table
Chicago Civil War Round Table
Lake County Civil War Round Table
Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table
Salt Creek Civil War Round Table
South Suburban Civil War Round Table
Lincoln - Davis Civil War Round Table
Kankakee Valley Civil War Round Table

MCHENRY COUNTY CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
AND MCHENRY COUNTY
SINCE IT'S FOUNDING AT

**UNION ILLINOIS
1998**



MISSION STATEMENT

**THE MCHENRY COUNTY
CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**

HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED TO PROMOTE
AND FOSTER EDUCATION, DISCUSSION,
AND THE ANALYSIS OF AND ABOUT
THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

BY LEARNING ABOUT THE PAST....
WE WILL HOPE TO MORE COMPLETELY
UNDERSTAND THE PRESENT, AND HAVE
A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE COMMUNITY

FARWELL TO THE CHIEF PRESIDENT RICK ANDRESEN

(See Story On Page 3)



DISCUSSION GROUP

MEETS AT

PANERA BREAD COMPANY

6000 NW HIGHWAY STE 56A
CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS

SATURDAY JUNE 25, 2011

10:00A.M. to NOON

This Month's Topic

**MCHENRY COUNTY'S
PART IN THE CIVIL**

Every Fourth Saturday of the Month
THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME
AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All Questions, Comments or Suggestions concerning the
MCCWRT Monthly Newsletter, The Civil War Reporter,
can be sent directly to K.M. Fisher, via his e-mail address
kmfisher51@gmail.com.

DURING 2011 THE CIVIL WAR REPORTER

WILL REFLECT
MONTHLY OCCURRENCES OF

**THE FIRST YEAR
OF THE AMERICAN
CIVIL WAR**

1861



CALENDER OF EVENTS



McHENRY COUNTY CWRT

MEETS AT
THE WOODSTOCK LIBRARY
440 WEST JUDD STREET
WOODSTOCK, ILLINOIS
7:00PM to 8:30PM

Tuesday June 14, 2011: Presentation
LONGSTREET IN EAST TENNESSEE
By Bill Grey

MCCWRT / DR. ED WILT ESSAY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PRESENTATION

Saturday June 25, 2011: Discussion
At the Panera Bread Store
6000 Northwest Highway, Suite 56A
Crystal Lake, Illinois
**MCHENRY COUNTY'S PART
IN THE CIVIL WAR**

CWRT OF CHICAGO

Friday June 10, 2011: Presentation
**ROBERT E. LEE AND THE STRATEGY
OF ANNIHILATION**
By Peter Carmichael PHD.

SALT CREEK CWRT

Friday June 17, 2011 Banquet/Presentation:
ANNUAL DINNER BANQUET
"ILLINOIS FIGHTS THE CIVIL WAR"
By Robert Girardi

LAKE COUNTY CWRT

Sunday June 26, 2011: Annual Picnic
ANNUAL PICNIC
VAN PATTEN WOODS SHELTER "B"
Begins at Noon

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CWRT

Friday June 3, 2011: Presentation
FORT PULASKI
By Gloria Swift

SOUTH SUBURBAN CWRT

**NO SCHEDULED EVENTS
MAY THROUGH AUGUST**

KANKAKEE VALLEY CWRT

Wednesday June 1, 2011: Dinner
ANNUAL DINNER

LINCOLN - DAVIS CWRT

Tuesday June 21, 2011: Presentation
"BARING THE IRON HAND"
By Stephen J. Ramold

KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM



www.kenosha.org/civilwar/index.html
5400 First Avenue
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53140
(262) 653-4140

**The Fourth Annual
Great Lakes Civil War Forum**
Saturday, September 10, 2011
Registration begins at 8:30
Program 9:30-3:30

ILLINOIS IN THE CIVIL WAR

By Victor Hicken

While much of its strength still lay in the farmlands and small villages, there was a swelling city growth as well. Chicago was burgeoning with 109,260 people, followed by Peoria, Galena, Alton, Quincy, Freeport, and Rock Island. Foreign immigration was increasing, and of the entire population 7,628 were Negroes. The cash value of Illinois farms was fourth in the nation, but the value of manufactured products was only fifteenth.

The rapidly spreading railroads as well as the economically strategic geographical position of the state were soon to alter these statistics. The state was indeed a "conscious" one, not only in politics and business but in the already sometimes frenetic energy in its people. And now it was time to go to war—unready, inexperienced, but generally eager.

In many ways Illinois was not too different in its war effort from the other northern states—they all did a share. It was in the subtleties, perhaps, or the chance of events that gave the Illinois soldier a distinctive character. We have to go back to the war times, to the newspapers, the letters, the diaries, to find the Illinoisan of that day. In doing this we see the mass of the 259,092 men of the state in the army and navy, and also the men and women at home backing them up, at least in most cases. And at the same time we are appalled by the gory casualty lists plastered on bulletin boards at wayside crossings in the crowded city squares—lists that in the end totaled nearly 35,000 dead in battle, of wounds, disease, or in faraway prison camps.

Nevertheless, in homefront Illinois it was possible not only to fight a war but to advance the state as well, for Illinois spurred during the 1860's to come out with a running start in the postwar expansion. A major contribution of Illinois was in leadership, and it is a truly impressive list: President Abraham Lincoln, Senator Stephen A. Douglas, General Ulysses S. Grant, and on down the list of the great and the near great in uniform and out. Of course there are a few, too, who can only be listed as the not-so-greats.

[To be Continued in the July Issue](#)



REFLECTING ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

"In great deeds something abides. On great fields something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear, but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls.

And reverent men and women from afar, and generations that know us not and that we know not of, heart-drawn to see where and by whom great things were suffered and done for them, shall come to this deathless field to ponder and dream;

And lo! The shadow of a Mighty Presence shall wrap them in its bosom, and the power of the vision pass into their soul

- Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain

New Name, New Logo Same Mission



Nearly 20 percent of America's Civil War battlefields have already been destroyed—denied forever to all future generations. Of those that remain, only 15 percent are protected as National Parks.

There is only one national organization working to save all these battlefields: [The Civil War Trust](#).

We can't save these threatened battlefields alone—we need help from concerned citizens like you.

The best benefit of joining the Civil War Trust is knowing you've helped preserve endangered Civil War battlefields—forever.

There are even more benefits—from your subscription to our award-winning *Hallowed Ground Magazine* to our acclaimed Civil War battle maps and more.

Civilwar.org



The Battle of Gettysburg: July 1-3, 1863

General Robert E. Lee concentrated his full strength against Major General George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac at the crossroads county seat of Gettysburg at what would come to be known as the Battle of Gettysburg.

On July 1, Confederate forces converged on the town from west and north, driving Union defenders back through the streets to Cemetery Hill. During the night, reinforcements arrived for both sides.

On July 2, Lee attempted to envelop the Federals, first striking the Union left flank at the Peach Orchard, Wheatfield, Devil's Den, and the Round Tops with Longstreet's and Hill's divisions, and then attacking the Union right at Culp's and East Cemetery Hills with Ewell's divisions. By evening, the Federals retained Little Round Top and had repulsed most of Ewell's men.

During the morning of July 3, the Confederate infantry were driven from their last toe-hold on Culp's Hill. In the afternoon, after a massive artillery bombardment, Lee attacked the Union center on Cemetery Ridge. The Pickett-Pettigrew assault (more popularly, Pickett's Charge) momentarily pierced the Union line but was driven back with severe casualties. Stuart's cavalry attempted to gain the Union rear but was repulsed.

On July 4, Lee began withdrawing his army toward Williamsport on the Potomac River, thus concluding the Battle of Gettysburg. The Confederate's train of dead and wounded stretched more than fourteen miles.

New CWT Opportunity at Gettysburg

With the preservation of the Country Club property and the Josiah Benner farm well underway, the Civil War Trust is pleased to announce the chance to save even more of the Gettysburg battlefield.

This new opportunity—2 parcels along the Baltimore Pike totaling 4 acres—brings us one step closer to completing the preservation of an iconic piece of American history. Literally tens of thousands of Union troops marched on or across this property on their way to destiny at Culp's Hill and Spangler's Spring.

After the battle, some of the fallen from those fateful engagements were buried here—right on the very land the Trust is working to save.

Now we have the opportunity to continue the hard work we have done, to save the very ground upon which brave Americans trod during their epic struggle in 1863.

This important ground, coupled with a separate preservation effort at the Country Club and the Josiah Benner House property, makes this one of the most exciting opportunities in our history.

FARWELL MCCWRT PRESIDENT RICK ANDRESEN (The Torch is Passed)



During the Tuesday May 10th meeting/presentation of the McHenry County Civil War Round Table, held at the Woodstock Library, newly elected President Bob Frenz graciously presented outgoing President Rick Andresen with a certificate of appreciation for his dedicated years as President of the MCCWRT.

Stating as follows:

**This Certificate of Appreciation
Presented to Rick Andresen
For Leadership and Guidance
In the past Three Years
May, 2008 to May, 2011**
From
**Jeff Rees, Vice President
James Keefe, Treasurer
Gloria Mack, Secretary**

I might add that as Editor of the Civil War Reporter Newsletter, it has been a pleasure working with Rick for the past three years, and I wish him the best of luck in all his endeavors in the future.

K. M. Fisher Editor

A Review of Charlie Bank's Powerpoint Program By Bob Frenz

Charlie Banks presented a power point slide program to the May meeting of the McHenry County Civil War Roundtable. Included were photos of Harper's Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg that Charlie has taken over the years and also others of the latter two sites taken from an ultralight aircraft. Aerial views certainly give a different perspective of these battlefields than one gets at ground level. It is easy to see why the Union army was anxious to establish and utilize its famed Balloon Corps.

Views taken at Harper's Ferry included that of General McLaws' position on Maryland Heights above the town. Charlie pointed out that trains went around the mountain at the time of the Civil War: there was as yet no tunnel. The engine house where John Brown was trapped has been rebuilt three times. The new bridge over the Potomac River stands beside the abandoned piers of the 1850's bridge.

The Kennedy house, from which John Brown gathered his forces, has been recently restored.

Harper's Ferry's Episcopal Church served as a barracks and hospital at the time of the John Brown raid.

Highlights of the Antietam slides included the famous Cornfield, the Sunken Road, and the Dunker Church.

The Clara Barton Monument stands near the Cornfield.

Charlie pointed out that the Park Service is in the process of reforesting the North Woods to bring it back to its 1862 look.

An interesting aerial perspective showed the famous bridge where General Burnside took his Ninth Corps across the Antietam Creek only to be hit by General Toombs' Georgians.

General Lee's headquarters has been purchased by the Civil War Trust.

The Pry House, near the east bank of Antietam Creek, served as McClellan's headquarters.

Finally, the Antietam National Cemetery is the site of a number of Illinois burials.

Aerial views of the town of Gettysburg as well as the familiar places of Cemetery Ridge, Seminary Ridge, Culp's Hill, the Wheatfield, the Round Tops, and the open field of Longstreet's advance certainly give an enhanced perspective to the 3 day struggle that went on there.

Bob Frenz

The "BUTTERNUTS" AND "COPPERHEADS"

Citation from: "Macon Telegraph"
May 6th, 1863 (front page)
By Kevin Dier-Zimmel

The "Butternuts," "Copperheads" and "Knights of the Golden Circle," appear to be causing considerable excitement in Indiana and Ohio.

They are said to be arming and preparing for internal strife. The Lincoln press denounces them as public enemies, and say their design is political disorganization and the overthrow of the administration.

The Cincinnati Commercial of the 20th, ult., says an organization of desperate political adventurers and disorganizers exist in the Free States. They belong to the Knights of the Golden Circle and other secret associations of the same character. One of the objects held in view by them is resistance to arrest deserters and another is resistance to the enforcement of the draft.

The Commercial has dispatches dated Indianapolis, the 19th, which say that a Union meeting was broken up in Boone County, Indiana, on the day previous, by the "K. G. C. 's" and in the melee several persons were killed and wounded. Another difficulty occurred, at Danville, Hendricks County, Indiana, on the same day, between the Union men and a crowd of mounted "K. G. C's" armed and adorned with butternuts. A small fight occurred, in which five men were wounded. The "Butternuts" retreated, and left the town in possession of the Union men.

Ed cited early pro-slavery efforts such as William Walker's attempt to establish a slave empire in Nicaragua in the 1850's. He was later executed for his efforts.

George Brickley tried to create a slave empire on the banks of the Rio Grande. Much of the copperhead sentiment coalesced in an organization known as the Knights of the Golden Circle – sometimes also known as the Sons of Liberty.

The Knights had grand lodges in almost all northern states, practiced secret handshakes, had 3 degrees of "attainment," and sought to disrupt the war effort as much as possible.

Peace Democrats aided deserters, dissuaded enlistments, and wanted to take Illinois out of the Union. Peace meetings were called in all major cities.

According to Ed, Coles and Moultrie counties were hotbeds of copperhead activity. They were especially active around the Charleston and Mattoon areas.

John Hines led the copperhead efforts in Illinois. His activities were funded by the Toronto office of the Confederacy.

Allen Pinkerton considered him to be the "most dangerous" Confederate.

In December, 1864 he and his followers even attempted to kidnap Vice President-Elect, Andrew Johnson. Their plot was foiled when Johnson left his hotel early.

Implementation of a draft in 1863 further heightened tensions in Illinois.

In Olney a mob threatened to burn the town because of the draft.

A mob in Danville laid siege to the draft office, sparking a riot that left 5 dead.

Forty Missouri bushwhackers invaded the town of Fountain Green, Illinois. Even school children were attacked – one young boy was stoned and clubbed to death.

Forces such as Union League clubs now formed to counteract the copperheads.

These evidences of internal dissensions among our enemies are certainly encouraging, but they should be by no means taken as indications that revolution among the Yankees will prevent them from prosecuting the war against the Confederates.

There is no doubt feeling of *intense dissatisfaction at the conduct of the war in some portions of the North, but it has not become widespread enough to be very formidable.*

It is our duty to encourage and strengthen this feeling, and this can be best done, not expressing sympathy for the "Copperheads," but by striving to defeat the enemy at every point, and endeavoring to make them appreciate more and more hopelessness of the contest in which they are engaged.

Montgomery Advertiser

[Continued In the August Newsletter](#)

MCCWRT / DR. EDWARD WILT 2011 SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION

This year's scholarship competition is divided into two separate topic questions, as well as two winners. One question submitted by the scholarship committee and the second by the MCCWRT web site.

Scholarship Committee Topic – THE GREAT WRIT

Detailed questionnaires can be viewed on page 5 and page 6 of this newsletter.

**Winner of the First Category –
The Great Writ by Chandler Ellison,
Johnsburg High School.**

**Web Site Topic –
ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S
PRESIDENTIAL
ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Winner of the Second Category -
Abraham Lincoln: The Great
Emancipator by Samantha Anderson,
McHenry West Community High
School.**

***Winners to be Presented with their
Awards at this Month's Meeting!**

**Please Note: To View Winning Essays
See Enclosed Word Document!**

McHenry County Civil War Round Table would like to take this time to thank all of the McHenry County High School students who applied and took the time to research and compose their essays which were submitted to the **MCCWRT / DR. ED WILT ESSAY COMPETITION.**

MCCWRT



This editorial is written as a tribute to
The 150th Anniversary of the American Civil War.

It will be run along with other pertinent articles as an effort on our Civil War Round Table's part in the celebrating of:

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES

1861 To 1865



EVENTS OF THE MONTH OF JUNE 1861 DURING THE CIVIL WAR

By Editor K.M. Fisher

June, 1861 - West Virginia Is Born.

June, 1861 - Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and Missouri Stay With the Union.

June 3, 1861 – The Battle of Philippi.

June 8, 1861 – Tennessee approves Articles of Secession by majority vote.

June 10, 1861 – Battle of Big Bethel Church.

June 17, 1861 – Battle of Boonville.

The Great Writ

The writ of Habeus Corpus (“you have the body”) is a right of civil liberty, dating back to the Magna Carta, and is a fundamental part of our American Constitution.

During the Civil War, President Jefferson Davis did not suspend the writ of Habeus Corpus; President Abraham Lincoln suspended the writ and invoked martial law on numerous occasions, resulting in the arbitrary arrest of thousands of individuals.

In your essay, discuss the positive and negative aspects of Mr. Lincoln’s actions during the Civil War, and how they might relate to personal liberties in post 9/11 America.

Your citations and bibliography should reflect your reading in the appropriate Civil War literature.

Abraham Lincoln's Presidential Accomplishments

This year, we celebrate the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, it seemed appropriate that we ask our essay contestants to review the presidential accomplishments of this outstanding American leader.

Our republic has been favored with several outstanding presidents and of course, some not so outstanding. Our scholarship committee asks that you address in your essay Abraham Lincoln's place in the ranks of American presidents, such as George Washington, Franklin Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson and others. Your essay should include a bibliography which includes the sources of your study of Mr. Lincoln and his career. We are interested in the reasons that led you to place Abraham Lincoln as you have, in the hierarchy of America's presidents.



www.illinoiscivilwar150.org

