



Andrew A. Humphreys



Established 1953



Earl Van Dorn



Secretary / Newsletter
Donna M. Tarvid



LOCATION: SMOKEY BARQUE
20 KANSAS STREET
FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS

Time: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016 AT 7:00 PM

Join us for dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m.
Stay for the meeting at 7:00 p.m.!

Contact Us at (815) 274-5321 or SSCWRT@gmail.com



**** SAVE THE DATE ****

DECEMBER 15, 2016

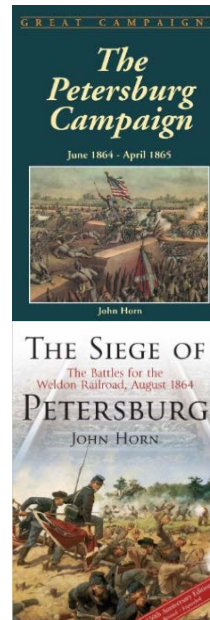
*Holiday Party at
Smokey Barque*



Many thanks to our October speaker **Brian Conroy** who talked about *Military Academies During the Civil War*. Brian gave a detailed picture of the various antebellum military academies and their students' involvement in the war.



Our speaker on **Thursday, November 17** will be **John Horn** who will discuss *The Petersburg Campaign*. A native of Illinois, John received a B.A. in English and Latin from New College (Sarasota, Florida) in 1973 and a J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1976. He has practiced law in the Chicago area since graduation, occasionally holding local public office, and living in Oak Forest with his wife and law partner, H. Elizabeth Kelley, a native of Richmond, Virginia. He has published articles in *Civil War Times Illustrated* and *America's Civil War*, and his books include *The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad*, reissued in 2015 in a revised and expanded Sesquicentennial Edition as *The Siege of Petersburg: The Battles for the Weldon Railroad, August 1864* and *The Petersburg Campaign* (1993). With Hampton Newsome, author of *Richmond Must Fall*, and Dr. John G. Selby, author of *Virginians at War*, Horn co-edited *Civil War Talks: The Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard & His Fellow Veterans* published by the University Press of Virginia in 2012.



HOLIDAY PARTY AND SILENT AUCTION

Come join us for some holiday cheer at our **Holiday Party** on **Thursday, December 15** at **Smokey Barque** in their upstairs banquet room. For your convenience, the restaurant does have an elevator. The cost is \$29 per person. If you'd like to donate a Civil War-related item for our silent auction, please bring your item to a round table meeting no later than the November 17 meeting. This year's silent auction proceeds will be split 50/50 between a local Civil War-related organization and a national organization. Some suggested national organizations include: ★*The Center for Civil War Photography* ★*President Lincoln's Cottage*, or ★ *Civil War Trust*. Some suggested local organizations include: ★*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War* ★*Camp Douglas Restoration Foundation*, or ★*Beecher Mausoleum Guardian Angels*. If you have an organization you'd like to be considered, please let us know. The Holiday Party form is attached. Many thanks for your support!



GOT STUFF?

★ **VETERANS DAY** ★ **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2016** ★

This Veterans Day take a moment to recognize all who nobly served.
The SSCWRT salutes all its members who are veterans and
we express our gratitude for your sacrifice.



Reminder:
Please pay your
2016-2017
membership dues

IN THE NEWS

The Bilerico Report on LGBTQ Nation reported on October 4 an article entitled *Confederate and Union: The Untold History of Gay Civil War Soldiers*. Civil War historians would argue that no one was dishonorably discharged – although there is record of three pairs of Navy sailors court-martialed for “*improper and indecent intercourse with each other.*” Learning about same-sex love among soldiers wasn’t Thomas P. Lowry’s focus when he published *The Story the Soldiers Wouldn’t Tell: Sex in the Civil War*, the first scholarly study of the sex lives of soldiers in the Civil War. Lowry references a ball put on by a Massachusetts regiment stationed in Virginia in 1864 with young drummer boys dressed as women. One man wrote to his wife: “*Some of the real women went, but the boy-girls were so much better looking that they left. ... We had some little Drummer Boys dressed up and I’ll bet you could not tell them from girls if you did not know them. ... Some of [the Drummer Boys] looked good enough to lay with and I guess some of them did get laid with. I know I slept with mine.*” Read the entire article: <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/10/confederate-union-untold-history-gay-civil-war-soldiers/>



USA Today reported on October 9 that Hurricane Matthew has uncovered 16 cannonballs near the City of Folly Beach near Charleston, South Carolina. The City initially wished to display the cannonballs, but a large number of them found to contain old and very unstable gunpowder. An Air Force Explosive Ordnance Team and the Folly Beach Fire Department are helping the sheriff’s office investigate. Authorities decided to destroy the cannonballs. Folly Beach Island is no stranger to pirates, shipwrecks, the Civil War – or hurricanes. The island was occupied by 13,000 federal troops in 1863 during the Civil War, and soldiers built roads, forts and an artillery battery, according to the city. The island served as a strategic base for the Union battle to take Fort Wagner, which guarded Charleston Harbor from the neighboring Morris Island. In 1987, construction workers found 14 bodies at the west end of the beach that were determined to be members of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, popularized in the movie *Glory*.



WTHITV Channel 10 News reported on October 21 that when the Civil War started, recruiting and training camps were needed. The long forgotten **Camp Vigo** was a training camp located in Terre Haute, Indiana. Camp Harrison soon opened after Camp Vigo in the same location. Camp Harrison was a prison camp. The photo pictured right is of Company G in the 14th Volunteer Regiment. These men were trained at Camp Vigo. They fought at many major battles including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Chancellorsville. Read about it at: http://www.31stindiana.com/31Camp_Vigo.html

Video: <http://wthitv.com/2016/10/21/report-it-wrap-did-you-know-terre-haute-had-a-civil-war-camp/>



Company G in the
14th Volunteer
Regiment

The Washington Post recently reported the restored **Lee’s headquarters** in Gettysburg officially opened on October 28. The Civil War Trust’s President Jim Lighthizer said “*It’s just the way Robert E. Lee saw it*” referring to the 1½ story 1832 house formerly owned by Mary Thompson and now stands alone on Seminary Ridge next to Chambersburg Pike. Gone is the 48-room, brick motel with its extensive parking lots, swimming pool, and gift shop. The CWT rarely buys a historic building, but this “. . . was arguably the most unprotected, historically important building from the Civil War” Lighthizer said.

SIDEBAR: Mary Thompson was approximately 70 years old and a widow at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg. Mary said that Lee was a gentleman who sat in a chair near the window reading his bible, but she complained bitterly of the “*robbery and general destruction of her goods by some of his attendants.*” Read all about Mary Thompson and her home during the Battle of Gettysburg: <http://civilwarwomenblog.com/mary-thompson-house/>



Mary Thompson



Abraham Lincoln-Hannibal Hamlin 1860 campaign button

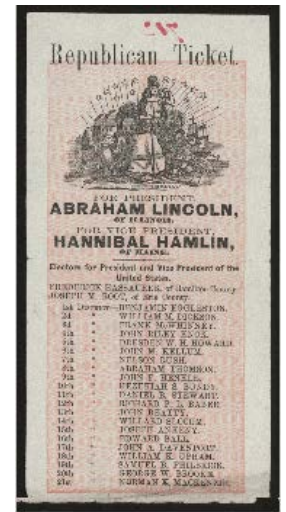


Election of 1860

Lincoln won with 1,866,452 votes without carrying a single Southern state. Stephen A. Douglas, the candidate of some Northern and Western factions of the Democratic party who was more tolerant of slavery, had 1,376,957 votes. John Breckinridge, candidate of the Democrats' pro-slavery, pro-secession Southern wing, and John Bell, a pro-Union candidate, split the remaining 1,438,660 votes. With the nation so divided and with so many embittered factions unwilling to give ground, the stage was set for the Civil War. In fact, many Southern leaders had warned that if Lincoln won, they would push for secession.

"A house divided against itself can not stand.' I believe this government cannot endure, permanently half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved—I do not expect the house to fall—but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one thing, or all the other."

—Abraham Lincoln, June 16, 1858



ALMOST . . . As of November 1, only 290 signatures needed to reach their 1,000 goal.

The Camp Douglas Foundation is preparing an application to have the footprint of Camp Douglas listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Please show your support by signing their petition available at: <https://www.change.org/p/camp-douglas-restoration-foundation-add-camp-douglas-to-the-national-register-of-historic-places>



CONGRATULATIONS to our October quiz winners:

- First Place: Donna Work – 12 points
- Second Place: Bruce Allardice – 11 points
- Third Place: Brian Conroy – 10 points



AROUND TOWN IN NOVEMBER

REMINDER: The Civil War Museum located at 5400 First Avenue in Kenosha presents *Masons at Gettysburg, North vs. South* on Saturday, November 5 at 1:30 pm. Trevor Steinbach, past master of the Armistead-Bingham Civil War Lodge 1862, elaborates on all of the Masons that held roles in this critical battle in July 1863. Also at the Civil War Museum *150 Years of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)* on Friday, November 11 at noon. The Grand Army of the Republic—first organized in Decatur, Illinois, in 1866—was among the first advocacy groups in American politics. The program covers the legacy of the G.A.R. from inception to its final muster in 1956. Call (262) 653-4141 for details.



NEW: Rosehill Cemetery located at 5800 North Ravenswood Avenue and Rosehill Drive in Chicago will hold a Veterans Day memorial service on Sunday, November 6 at 11:00 am. Meet at the Main Chapel. Free event.

SIDEBAR: Rosehill Cemetery has approximately 350 Union soldiers, sailors and at least three Confederates buried there. It is the final resting place for Major General Thomas Edwin Greenfield Ransom and General Benjamin Jeffrey Sweet, as well as several members of the 8th Illinois Cavalry--the unit that fired the first shots in the Battle of Gettysburg. Rosehill's Gothic Joliet limestone entrance building built in 1864 houses its Civil War Museum which is the only museum of its kind in the country.



Thomas E.G. Ransom



Benjamin J. Sweet



NEW: SSCWRT member **Don C. White** will discuss the *Gettysburg Address* at the Green Hills Public Library located at 10331 South Interlochen Drive in Palos Hills on Thursday, **November 10** at 6:30 pm. President Abraham Lincoln delivered his speech “*Four score and seven years ago*” at the dedication of the Soldiers’ National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on November 19, 1863. For information call (708) 598-8446 x 120 or adultservices@greenhillslibrary.org



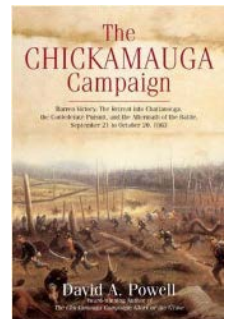
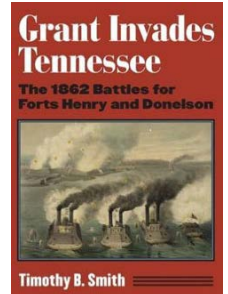
NEW: The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc., together with *Author’s Voice* a virtual book signing network, presents author Timothy B. Smith on his latest book *Grant Invades Tennessee: The 1862 Battles for Forts Henry and Donelson* on **November 12** at noon. Bjorn Skaptason talks to author Timothy B. Smith about when General Ulysses S. Grant targeted Forts Henry and Donelson, and penetrated the Confederacy at one of its most vulnerable points, setting in motion events that would elevate his own status, demoralize the Confederate leadership and citizenry, and significantly tear the western Confederacy asunder. For information and to order this book go to:

<http://authorsvoice.net/product/grant-invades-tennessee-tim-smith/>

Bjorn will also talk with David Powell on his book *The Chickamauga Campaign: A Barren Victory* on **November 12** at noon. Powell examines the immediate aftermath of this battle with unprecedented clarity and detail. The narrative opens at dawn on Monday, September 21, 1863, with Union commander William S. Rosecrans in Chattanooga and most of the rest of his Federal army in Rossville, Georgia. For information and to order this book go to:

<http://authorsvoice.net/product/the-chickamauga-campaign-dave-powell/>

The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc. has a **new location:** 824 W. Superior Street, Suite 100, Chicago, Illinois. <http://alincolnbookshop.com/>



NEW: The Orland Park Public Library located at 14921 Ravinia Avenue in Orland Park presents *Genealogy from Civil War Records* on Tuesday, **November 15** at 7:00 pm. SSCWRT member **Bruce Allardice** will discuss the resources, both in print and online, for Civil War family history research. His suggestions on the best ways to mine these resources reflect personal research and usage. For information call (708) 428-5100.



NEW: The DeSoto House Hotel located at 230 South Main Street in Galena, Illinois will host *Women of Courage and Commitment* on Saturday, **November 19** at 3:00 pm. *The Women of Courage and Commitment* portray historical women such as the first pioneer woman in Galena, the first woman doctor, a woman in the Civil War, an Irish immigrant woman and a woman civil rights activist. Come join the fun! Tickets include coffee, tea and dessert. The cost is \$15.00 per person and reservations are suggested. Call the DeSoto House Hotel (815) 777-0090.



SIDEBAR: Named for the discoverer of the Mississippi River, the **DeSoto House** opened on April 9, 1855 and was billed as the “Largest Hotel in the West.” Its most notable visitor was Abraham Lincoln, who spoke from its Main Street balcony on July 23, 1856, in support of John Fremont’s bid for presidency. Just two years later, on July 25, 1858 Senator Stephen A. Douglas spoke from the same balcony. On September 13, 1860, a crowd of over 15,000 rallied in front of the DeSoto in response to a “Grand Republican Mass Meeting” in support of Lincoln’s presidential bid.

