



**ABOUT the ALCWRT**

- *The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded 1952. This year is our JUBILEE ...! Our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary is September, 2017.*
- *Meetings are each 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, September through May (except December), 7:30 pm, at the Charter Township of Plymouth City Offices, 9955 N. Haggerty, in the Chamber Council Room.*
- *For more information, contact ALCWRT President Liz Stringer at [stringerL@aol.com](mailto:stringerL@aol.com)*
- *Our web site is [ALCWRT.org](http://ALCWRT.org)*
- *Like us on FACEBOOK...! "Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"*

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**"RELIGION is WHAT MAKES SOLDIERS BRAVE –**

**Why Religion and Faith Mattered in the Civil War"** will be presented by **Father Robert (Bob) Miller** at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ALCWRT.

**INTRODUCTION --**

It was an extremely devout country that went to war in 1861, yet the most ignored topic of Civil War study is the role that religion and faith played in it. Before, during and after the War, religion and faith had a deep, pervasive influence on politicians, soldiers and civilians alike. We will consider **seven reasons why religion and faith's role was critical** in justifying, supporting and promoting nearly every aspect of our Civil War.

**ABOUT our SPEAKER --**

Robert J. Miller is a Catholic priest of forty-one years, works in the Archdiocese of Chicago, and is presently ministering as the Pastor of St. Dorothy Church in inner-city Chicago. He has Masters degrees in Religious Education and Divinity, has authored five books on spirituality and faith, and was an adjunct professor of Church history at the University of St. Mary of the Lake. He also has been a past President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. His book on the role of faith in the Civil War – *Both prayed to the Same God – Religion and Faith in the Civil War* – is widely acclaimed, and is the first book-length comprehensive overview of the topic.

Fr. Miller will join the group at the pre-meeting dinner at 6:00pm at Station 885 in Plymouth, and will have copies of his books available at the meeting.

**SPRING TRIP REPORT: 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign**

About 25 of us spent two days last month on a tour of 1862 Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites with venerable guide Scott Patchan. A bonus was having his fellow historian Gary Ecelbarger also join our group on the first day of the tour. The tour concentrated on sites from Harrisonburg to Winchester, VA, just to the east and west of Massanutten Mountain. Highlights were the Pritchard House near Kernstown, Stonewall Jackson's HQ in Winchester at the home of Mary Tyler Moore's Confederate ancestor, and the Widow Pence Farm at Cross Keys. ***Many thanks to Liz and Worley for planning and organizing another wonderful field trip..! And June thanks everyone for their good wishes –she's home and much improved after her own "special tour" of the Harrisonburg hospital.***

**WHAT DID WE LEARN?***...A sampling of factoids from the Shenandoah trip...*

- \* The town of Winchester and Frederick County were the scene of six Civil War battles, which speaks to their strategic position on excellent roads to the north and east. It's said that Winchester itself changed flags about 70 times during the four years, and reportedly 13 times in a single day!
- \* The First Battle of Kernstown was Jackson's only defeat in this campaign.
- \* After the dual defeats at Cross Keys and Port Republic, the Union armies retreated, leaving Jackson in control of the upper and middle Shenandoah Valley and freeing his army to reinforce R.E. Lee before Richmond in the Seven Days Battles

**HOW to SPEND YOUR SUMMER VACATION** *This is our last meeting before the summer break, so here are some ideas for things to do before we get back together in September.*

- \* **MAY 27-29: CIVIL WAR REMEMBRANCE at GREENFIELD VILLAGE** This three day event includes demonstrations of military strategy, a Stephen Foster Sing-a-Long, and a national moment of silence at 3pm on Monday commemorating this key event in our American history.
- \* **1860's ERA BASEBALL at GREENFIELD VILLAGE** Take in a game at Greenfield Village this summer : 1860's era rules and uniforms!
- \* **LINCOLN's BOYHOOD HOME –and- NOAH GORDON's MILL:** If you're traveling in southern Indiana, you're likely to make a stop at the site of **Lincoln's Boyhood Home**, where he spent fourteen years in his youth. Besides the recreated log house and working farm (yes, there were live chickens and corn, last time we visited), there's the **Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial** with its two memorial halls and exhibits. Nearby is the gravesite of his mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln. As you exit this national site, cross the road to **Lincoln State Park**, the site of the Little Pigeon Creek community of the 40 families, which included the Lincolns, who emigrated here from Kentucky. You can visit the graveyard of the still-active Baptist Church where Lincoln's sister Sarah is buried, then follow the trail from the church through the woods to the site of **Noah Gordon's Mill**. The site of the mill's well is still visible, and there are interpretative signs. Gordon's mill, less than a mile from the Lincoln boyhood home, was horse-powered, and is where Lincoln was said to have been "killed for a while" when he was kicked in the head by his horse when milling grain at the mill. *(Fun fact: Quint Burkhart is a descendant on his mother's side of Noah Gordon).*
- \* **Google "2017 Michigan Civil War events"** for other ideas and things to do this summer.

**HAYMAKER's SWITCHEL** If you're staying close to home this summer, then make up a batch of **Haymaker's Switchel** before heading out to your garden. Here's an authentic Lincoln Era recipe from *The New Salem Hearth Cook*, published in *The A. Lincoln Cookbook* by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, IL.

- Combine 2 quarts water and 1/4 cup vinegar
- Add 2 cups brown sugar and stir until sugar dissolves
- Add 1 cup molasses and 1 Tbsp ginger and stir briskly

Put in a canteen and serve! *If anybody tries this, we'll want to hear about it at the September meeting !*

**THIS and THAT –**

**JOHN (Jack) RYAN has moved, and would love to hear from friends --**

Jack has been a long-time member of ALCWRT. He went on all of our trips in the past, and has recently moved.

Drop him a line at his new address: **Sunrise of Playa Vista, 5555 Playa Vista Drive, Playa Vista, CA 90094**