



ABOUT the ALCWRT

- *The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table is the oldest Civil War Round Table in Michigan, founded in 1952. Our JUBILEE (65th) anniversary was September, 2017.*
- *Meetings are each 3rd 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*
- *Our web site is ALCWRT.org*
- *Like us on **FACEBOOK**...!
"Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table"*

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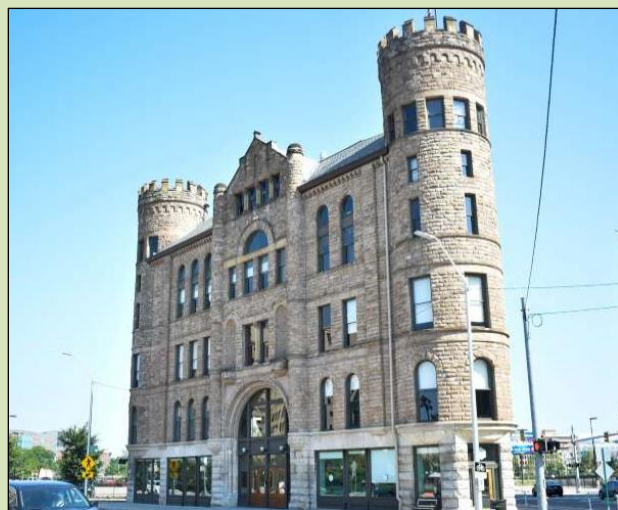
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ANNIVERSARY EVENT ... p.6*

RON CARLY will be the featured speaker for the
NOVEMBER 21 meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table.
His presentation is entitled
LINCOLN and the PRESIDENTIAL JEOPARDY
It promises to be an edifying evening..!

THANKS to LIZ and WORLEY

for arranging a wonderful evening on
October 14th at the Detroit GAR Building
in celebration of the
ALCWRT's Jubilee..!

See page 6 for some pictorial highlights of the evening..



THE VERY LAST SHOT FIRED ... BUT NOT THE FINAL MILITARY ACTION

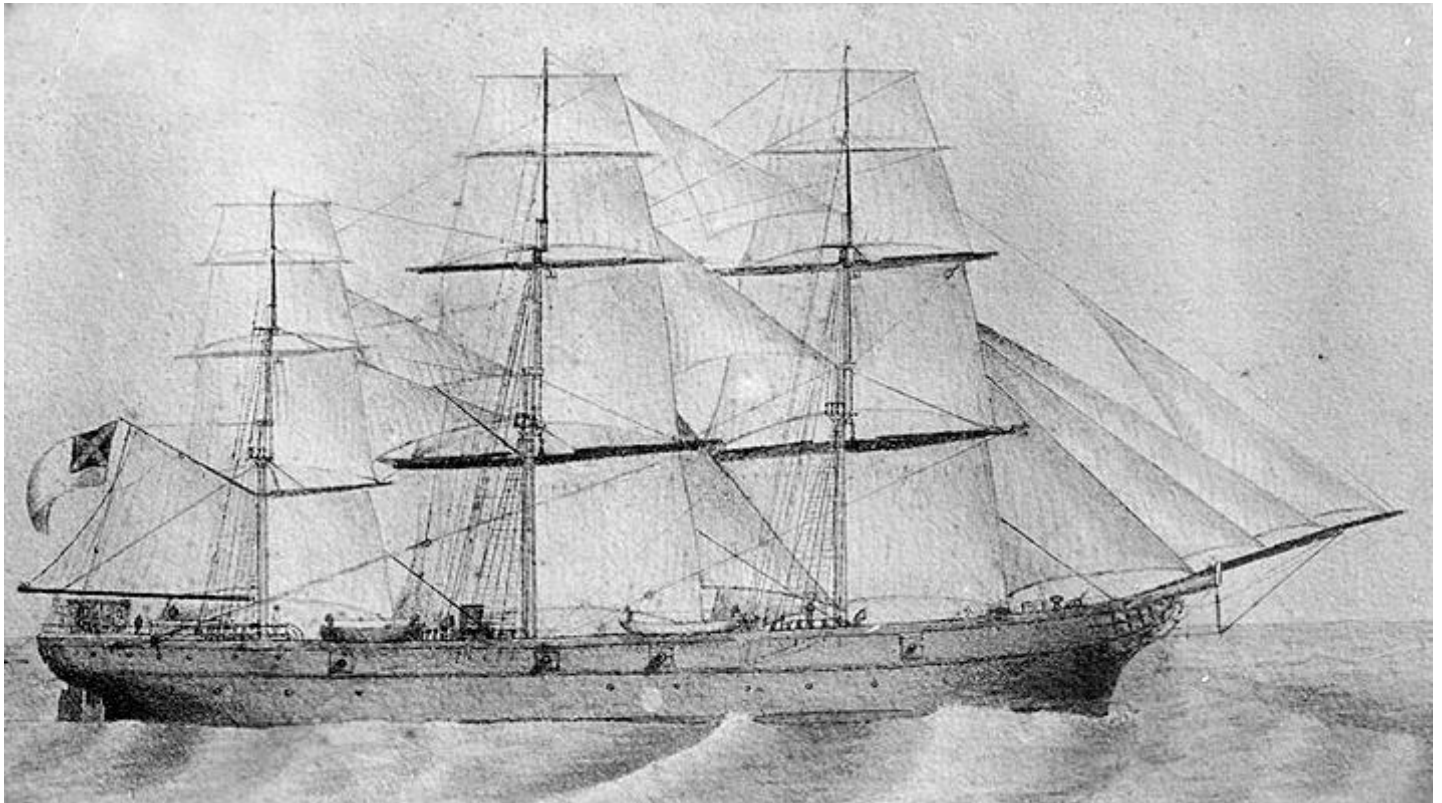
News – good or otherwise – did not travel fast in the days of the telegraph and horse rider.

JUNE 22, 1865

On June 22, 1865, the *CSS Shenandoah* fired a shot off the bow of a whaler in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska. This was the last shot fired in the Civil War because word only reached the ship a few days later that Lee had surrendered at Appomattox and that President Abraham Lincoln had been assassinated back in April.

The *CSS Shenandoah* was captained by Lt. Commander James Waddell, and it was he who had ordered the warning shot to the whaler to surrender. The Confederate ship's mission, after all, was to disrupt the U.S. economy by either capturing and sinking merchant vessels or holding them for ransom.

In its twelve and a half months in the Confederate navy, the *Shenandoah* would circumnavigate the world, sailing 58,000 miles, sinking or capturing thirty-eight U.S. civilian merchant vessels (primarily whalers), and taking close to 1,000 prisoners. His crew suffered not a single war casualty (two men died of disease). The ship was not involved in any conflicts with Union naval vessels, but it claimed more than 20 prizes valued (in today's money) at \$22.9 million. The *CSS Shenandoah* was one of the most feared commerce raiders in the Confederate navy.



... continued ...

FROM JUNE 22 to NOVEMBER 6, 1865

While June 22nd marked the last shot fired, this did not end the *CSS Shenandoah*'s military actions.

Lt. Commander Waddell got the news about Lee's surrender at Appomattox and the Confederate government's flight from Richmond when he captured the *Susan & Abigail* on June 27th and was shown a San Francisco newspaper report of these defining events. But this newspaper also carried a quote from President Jeff Davis that the "*war would be carried on with renewed vigor.*" So Lt. Commander Waddell continued to raid U.S. whaling ships, and captured ten more in a matter of just seven hours in the seas just below the Arctic Circle.

On August 3rd, the *Shenandoah* encountered a ship from Liverpool, the *Barracouta*, on its way to San Francisco. It was then that Waddell learned of Johnston's surrender on April 26, Kirby Smith's surrender on May 26, and the capture of President Jeff Davis. He realized then that the war was indeed over.

When Waddell got this news he had been on the way to San Francisco to attack the weakly-defended city. Instead, he now lowered the Confederate flag, dismounted the guns, stored them below deck, and painted the hull to look like an ordinary merchant vessel. Why?

Waddell knew that returning to a U.S. port would mean that he and his crew would face an unsympathetic court. The *CSS Shenandoah* was, after all, a commerce raider, and commerce raiders were not included in the reconciliation and amnesty that Confederate soldiers had been given. Waddell feared they would be tried and hanged as pirates. With the war over, the U.S. government had no reason to show leniency.

What Waddell probably did not know was that the surviving captain and crew of the *CSS Alabama* – those who had escaped to England -- had not been charged as pirates. Why not? The *Alabama*'s captain surrendered as an army general under Joseph Johnston, and the crew surrendered as artillerymen.

So, with his ship's appearance altered, Lt. Commander Waddell sailed the *CSS Shenandoah* 9,000 nautical miles from the west coast of Mexico via Cape Horn to Liverpool, England, all the while pursued by Union ships. She anchored at the Mersey Bar waiting for a pilot to take her into Liverpool, but no pilot would take a ship that flew no flag. So the crew raised the Confederate flag, and sailed up the River Mersey into Liverpool. It was here that Lt. Commander Waddell surrendered the ship on November 6, 1865. The *Shenandoah*'s flag was the last sovereign Confederate flag to be officially furled.

Note: This flag is in the collection of the American Civil War Museum in Richmond, VA.

BEFORE IT WAS THE CSS SHENANDOAH

Why did Lt. Commander Waddell choose Liverpool as his place of surrender?

There was his concern, noted above, about being tried and hanged as pirates if they surrendered to the Union. And recall from the ALCWRT February 2019 newsletter that there was some measure of sympathy for the Confederate cause in Britain. Liverpool, in fact, was the unofficial home port of the Confederate overseas fleet. Confederate Commander James Dunwoody Bulloch was stationed there, and Liverpool provided ships, munitions, crews, and provisions to the Confederate navy throughout the war.

Another reason to return to Liverpool: the *CSS Shenandoah* was originally a British ship, built in Scotland and launched in 1863 as UK merchant vessel *Sea King*. Sailing her back to England was a sort of homecoming.

The *Sea King* was an iron-framed, teak-planked, full-rigged sailing ship with auxiliary steam power. It made several trips to the Far East and to New Zealand carrying cargo and troops, and then was purchased in secret by the Confederate navy. It was renamed the *Shenandoah*, then converted into an armed cruiser with the mission to capture and destroy Union merchant ships.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE SURRENDER?

The crew -- After the *Shenandoah* surrendered to the British, a decision had to be made as to what to do with the Confederate ship's crew. Many of the sailors had, in fact, originated from the U.K. and its colonies.

An investigation was conducted by law officers of the Crown and it was decided that the officers and crew did not infringe the rules of war or the laws of nations. There was no justification, therefore, for holding them as prisoners. They were unconditionally released.

Why did the investigation conclude that the officers and crew had not infringed the rules of war or the laws of nations? In 1856, fifty-five nations had signed the Declaration of Paris, outlawing privateering. The U.S. had not signed that Declaration, though, because it did not have a significant navy and so relied on commissioning merchant vessels as war vessels. The U.S. depended on privateers when at war. Perhaps this is why the investigation concluded that in this conflict between the U.S. and the Confederacy, re-commissioning merchant vessels as war vessels broke no rules of war.

The captain -- Lt. Commander Waddell returned to the U.S. from England in 1875 to captain a ship for the Pacific Mail Company. Later he took command of a small force that policed the oyster fleets in the Chesapeake Bay. He died in 1886 in Annapolis, Maryland.

The ship -- The *Shenandoah* was handed over to the U.S. It was sold to a Liverpool resident, who subsequently sold it to the first Sultan of Zanzibar. It was damaged in a hurricane in early 1872, repaired, and then sank six months later on a voyage from Zanzibar to Bombay.

The Alabama Claims -- In 1869, the U.S. pursued claims (collectively called the [Alabama Claims](#)) against the British government for the attacks on Union merchant ships by those Confederate raiding ships built in British shipyards during the Civil War. In 1872, an international arbitration supported the American position, and awarded the U.S. \$15.5 million. (Recall from the ALCWRT February 2019 newsletter that British Prime Minister John Templeton refused to pay. After Templeton's death, Gladstone honored the debt). This settlement led to a treaty that restored friendly relations between Britain and the United States.

... turn the page for more newsletter ...

AN 1863 RECIPE for SPICE CAKE

Need some comfort food after our early blast of winter? This recipe is from the 1863 diary of sergeant and quartermaster sergeant Jacob H. Mechling, Company I, 126th IL Infantry.

** From the Abraham Lincoln Cookbook.*

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 cup butter | 1 tsp. ground cloves |
| 2 cups brown sugar | 2 tsp. cinnamon |
| 7 egg yolks | 2 tsp. ginger |
| 1 egg | 1 nutmeg, grated |
| 1 cup molasses | pinch cayenne |
| 5 cups flour | 1 cup sour milk(buttermilk) |
| 1 tsp. baking soda | 2 cups raisins (optional) |

- * Cream butter and sugars until light. * Combine yolks and whole egg; beat well.*
- * Beat eggs into the butter-sugar mixture until batter is light. * Add molasses and mix thoroughly.*
- * Combine flour, baking soda, and spices.*
- * Alternately add flour-spice mixture and milk to the batter, ending with milk. * Beat well.*
- * If using raisins: flour them, then stir them into the batter.*
- * Grease three 9-inch cake pans. * Pour in batter.*
- * Preheat oven to 400, then immediately lower the temperature to 350 for baking the cakes.*
- * Bake for 40 minutes or until a straw inserted into the middle comes out clean.*

NOTE: *The recipe did not include any recipe for icing or sauce.*

LIST of SPEAKERS for 2020

** Note a few revisions since we published this list in October...*

| <u>date</u> | <u>speaker</u> | <u>topic</u> |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| JAN 16 | Jack Dempsey | "Alpheus S. Williams" |
| FEB 20 | Pam Dawson | "Mary Todd Lincoln: the White House Years" |
| MAR 19 | Roy Finkenbine | "Much Apu about Nothing: What Caused the Civil War?" |
| APR 16 | Bob Allen | "The Lincoln Assassination & J.W. Booth's Escape and Killing: Sifting the Facts from the Myths" |
| MAY 21 | Mark Hoffman | "Michigan Civil War Soldiers & Their Communities" |
| SEPT 17 | Jerry Eising | "Untold Stories of the Civil War" |
| OCT 15 | Jillian Drapala | "Women in the Civil War" |
| NOV 19 | Liz Stringer | "Elmira Hancock's Diary" |

The Abraham Lincoln Civil War Round Table, founded in 1952, celebrated its "Jubilee Plus Two" Anniversary with a dinner and presentation at the beautifully restored GAR Building in Detroit on October 14th, with special guest A. Wilson Greene, author of the recently published "Petersburg: A Campaign of Giants".

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Liz presented Will Greene with the ALCWRT's Weldon Petz award.



After dinner, Will Greene presented to the group: "A Perfect Hell of Blood: The Battle of the Crater".

Many thanks to Liz and Worley for arranging a wonderful menu and celebration at Detroit's beautiful GAR building.  
Happy Anniversary to the ALCWRT..!



**HOUSE CHARCUTERIE**  
MEATS, CHEESES, PRESERVES,  
PICKLES AND HOUSE MADE BREADS

**ROASTED BUTTERNUT SQUASH**  
TOGARASHI, SHALLOTS,  
COCONUT ESPUMA, HONEYCOMB

**SMOKED TRUMPET MUSHROOMS**  
LOCAL MUSHROOMS, GREEN PEA HUMMUS,  
YUCCA PANCAKE, HOISEN VINAIGRETTE, HERBS,  
SESAME SEEDS

**CHAR GRILLED OCTOPUS**  
SMOKY CAPONATA, ZA'ATAR,  
GREMOLATA, BASIL AIOLI

**DUCK MERGUEZ**  
LENTILS, MUSTARD, PICKLED MUSTARD SEEDS,  
FRIED BREAD

**FERMENTED BLACK BEAN & LAMB MEATBALLS**  
HARISSA YOGURT, PICKLED ONIONS,  
MALT GASTRIQUE

**BRAISED BEEF BRISKET**  
RACLETTE, GRILLED BREAD, ZIP SAUCE, APRICOT  
CHUTNEY

**PANNU KAKKU**  
BLUEBERRY JAM, CANDIED PECANS, SPICED WHIP