

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

September 2007
Volume 57, Number 1

Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War

Professor Chandra Manning examines why Union and Confederate soldiers identified slavery as the root cause of the war, how the war changed their ideas about slavery, and what those changing ideas meant for the war and the nation. Letters, diaries and camp newspapers will enable us to probe the innermost thoughts to better understand what soldiers - blue, gray, and black - thought about what they were fighting for and why.

Professor Chandra Manning is a graduate of Mt. Holyoke College with a masters degree in philosophy from the National University of Ireland in Galway and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. She has taught at Pacific Lutheran University and is currently an assistant professor at Georgetown University. When not immersed in Civil War studies, she is an avid baseball fan and offers a course on baseball in American history.

September 2007 Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, September 11, 2007	Place:	Officers' Club Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
Price:	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		
Agenda:	6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar 6:45 pm Dinner: Prime rib Vegetable of the Day (Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.) Mashed Potatoes Apple Pie		
	8:00 pm Speaker: Chandra Manning Topic: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War		

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, September 5, 2007. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2

Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

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Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

Membership in the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is open to anyone interested in the study of the American Civil War or American history. Our program year runs from September through June of the following year. Dues are \$30.00 per year (\$15 if you join after January 31, 2008) and should be mailed with a membership application form (available on our web site or from the address below) to:

CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

by Gordon Berg

The Round Table enters its 57th year at a crossroads. Past president Wendy Swanson's exemplary stewardship has set the administrative bar high and this year's executive board will strive to serve our members in a similar fashion. My goal for the 2007-08 year is to present an excellent roster of speakers while maintaining a strong commitment to our long tradition of financial support for preservation activities. I believe, with the help of each and every member, we can do both.

The Round Table will continue to meet at Fort McNair. We have negotiated with the catering company for dinner costs to rise by only one dollar. Many of you have noticed that the meetings tend to run behind schedule. We have notified the caterers that dinner must begin promptly at 6:45 p.m. and be served in a timely manner. I will do my best to make sure announcements, the book raffle and the speaker's presentation move along at a brisk pace. In return, I ask that each of you renew your commitment to attending as many meetings as you can.

Ken Rice works hard to make sure we continue to have one of the best Round Table web sites on the Internet and a newsletter that contains interesting and timely information. To help us conserve financial resources, I urge that everyone capable of receiving the newsletter by email do so. I would encourage anyone interested in contributing items to the newsletter to send the information to Ken. Many members are involved in activities that would be of interest to us all. Tell us about them!

We are working to select the destination and dates of our 2008 field trip as early as possible. This will allow for members to plan their summer schedules and provide sufficient time to widely publicize it to other round table members and the general public.

Other publicity efforts will involve sending monthly notices of our upcoming meetings to media outlets like the Smithsonian's electronic Civil War newsletter, The Washington Times' Civil War page, The Civil War News, and other round table newsletters. Bull Run has promised to run our list of speakers and we will reciprocate by running theirs. We will also design a new publicity flyer and distribute it widely to other organizations, book stores, and round tables. You can help us spread the word about our round table by taking some when they are available.

Our first speaker, Professor Chandra Manning, will talk about her extensive researches into what soldiers blue, gray, and black believed they were fighting for and why. A copy of her recent book, *What This Cruel War Was Over: Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War*, will be part of the book raffle. Don't miss her provocative presentation. I look forward to seeing you on September 11.

Schedule of Speakers 2007-08

- Sep 11 Chandra Manning - Soldiers, Slavery, and the Civil War
- Oct 9 Jack Hurst - Grant, Forrest and the Campaign That Won the War
- Nov 13 Chuck Mauro - Soldiers and Civilians in Fairfax County
- Dec 11 Anne Rubin - Reactions to Sherman's March
- Jan 8 David Owens - Ambrose Bierce: The Devil's Topographer
- Feb 12 Bart Friedman - Lincoln, The True Conservative
- Mar 11 Brian McKnight - Contested Borderlands
- Apr 8 Ed Bearss - To be announced
- May 13 Flint Whitlock - Distant Bugles, Distant Drums
- Jun 10 Joe Balicki - Archeology of Civil War Battlefields

Reenactment of Sunday Service Prior to Battle of Antietam

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church in Sharpsburg, their congregation and its church building played an important role in the Battle of Antietam, serving as the principal Confederate hospital after the fighting. The battle was a defining point in the life of their community, and its largest annual festival, Sharpsburg Heritage Days, marks the anniversary of the fighting with a parade, historical programs and various community events.

To mark the 145th anniversary of the battle this year and as a part of Heritage Days, the church will be holding a special commemorative service on Sunday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m.

The service will be an approximate reenactment of the service held three days before the battle in 1862. They will use the historic liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer, period vestments and music. They will honor and pray for those who died on both sides of this historic battle. The sermon will be reflecting on the battle's legacy and the lessons it can impart to modern-day Christians. A special reception will be held after the service with nineteenth century fare.

They have extended a personal invitation to our Civil War Roundtable group to join them for this important service. They are located at 209 West Main Street, a block and a half southwest of the Square. Parking is available on the street and behind church via the alley.

For further information, please contact:

Mark A. Michael
Rector, Saint Paul's Church
301-432-7098
mamichael@stjames.edu

Book Review by Jim Hurdle

This Mighty Scourge: Perspectives on the Civil War

by James M. McPherson

Oxford University Press, January 2007, \$28.00

This rather slim volume (221 pages of text plus notes and bibliography) contains sixteen essays discussing an array of topics. Most have appeared elsewhere but three, discussing Lee's goals at Gettysburg, Lincoln and Grant's opinions about Vicksburg and Lincoln's interpretation of his role as commander-in-chief, are new contributions.

Because these are individual essays on distinct topics, each provides succinct arguments that can be read as you have the time and then put aside for the next opportunity. Of course, James McPherson offers such strong scholarship that one barely digests the first essay before wanting to sample the next.

Of the sixteen, the final, "As Commander-In-Chief I Have a Right to Take Any Measure That May Best Subdue the Enemy," discusses Abraham Lincoln's controversial positions about the role of the President during wartime. This one is particularly recommended, even to the point of reading it alone, as arguments used by Lincoln to take controversial measures such as rescinding the right to habeas corpus and issuing the Emancipation Proclamation while the Constitution still permitted slavery asserted special powers for a "war President" that are still being argued today in the context of the war in Iraq.

25 Years Ago

Howard C. Westwood spoke to the Roundtable on September 14, 1982. His topic was "The Battle of Galveston." This was his 16th presentation to the Round table, and the eighth consecutive year he spoke at the September meeting.

Invitation for all Civil War Reenactors and History Buffs to the Dedication of a Bronze Civil War Soldier Statue.

Saturday, September 29, 2007, at 1:00 PM
 Location: 314 Belgrove Drive, Kearny, N.J.
 The site of the New Jersey Home for Disabled Civil War Soldiers and Sailors, and the present location of the American Legion hall.

On September 29 the General Phil Kearny Memorial Committee will be dedicating a restored 1888 statue of a Civil War Infantryman which originally stood (1888-1933) in front of the New Jersey Home for Civil War Veterans. All Civil War reenactors and history buffs are invited to this event. The organizers ask that reenactors please register (no fee), as they plan to issue a dedication ribbon to all registered participants.

In the decades that followed the Civil War, thousands of New Jersey veterans lived their final years at the "Old Soldiers' Home" located in Kearny. For nearly fifty years, a six-foot tall statue of a Union Infantryman stood guard at the entrance of the home until the home was closed in 1933. The barracks were torn down, cannon rolled away and the silent sentinel statue was removed from his post, somehow severely damaged, eventually placed in storage and forgotten. Recently discovered by the members of the General Phil Kearny Memorial Committee, the group has raised nearly \$35,000 to have this statue restored to its former glory. The bronze soldier will be placed near where he originally stood. A 7-ton boulder from the Gettysburg Battlefield will serve as a pedestal.

If you would like to attend the dedication ceremony, please contact: Bill Stycle (w.stycle@att.net) or

Gen. Phil Kearny Memorial Committee
 PO Box 483
 Kearny, NJ 07032
 201-991-8749

Book Review by Gordon Berg

Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862

By O. Edward Cunningham

Edited by Gary D. Joiner and Timothy B. Smith
 Savas Beatie, April 2007, \$34.95

Shiloh. The word in ancient Hebrew means "place of peace" but in Civil War historiography it has come to be associated with the roiling cauldron of smoke and blood that erupted for two days in early spring in the fields and woods surrounding the rustic Methodist chapel above Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River.

Unfortunately, the battle there on April 6-7, 1862, has never been studied with the intense scrutiny given to the war's more familiar killing fields in the Eastern theater of operations. But for the troops who fought there and survived the carnage, Shiloh would forever conjure up images of the apocalypse and evoke nightmare visions of the end of days. More than 23,000 young men forever consecrated the battleground with their blood and even the most naïve soldiers and civilians were now convinced that Johnny would not come marching home anytime soon.

But is the dearth of modern scholarship sufficient justification for publishing a PhD dissertation written more than 40 years ago? Anyone who reads O. Edward Cunningham's meticulously researched **Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862** will probably answer a resounding yes. Written for the noted Civil War historian T. Harry Williams at Louisiana State University and, for the most part, deftly edited by Gary Joiner and Timothy Smith, Cunningham's work stands the test of time remarkably well.

Cunningham displays an encyclopedic familiarity with the regiments and personnel engaged in the battle. He convincingly argues that the Union forces were not completely surprised and routed on the first day nor were

the Confederate attacks overwhelmingly successful. Moving his analytic eye from first contact in the pre-dawn darkness on a farm track beyond Fraley field to the furious action around Shiloh meeting house, the Hornet's Nest along the Sunken Road (that, in reality, was not sunken at all), the Peach Orchard, and back again, Cunningham demonstrates that the battle quickly lost its strategic coherence and devolved into numerous savage fire fights where regimental courage and line officer competence usually determined success or failure.

Many of the troops in both armies had never before been in harm's way and the uncommon valor exhibited by the vast majority of them is astounding. Cunningham's descriptive vignettes name many of them and he uses their own words to convey their experiences. His meticulous comparisons of after action reports, survivor letters and diaries, and contemporary newspaper accounts allow him to challenge some of the myths that grew up after the battle and correct prevailing errors of fact, some of which have found their way into modern scholarship.

In their useful introduction, Joyner and Smith explain the prevailing schools of thought that have grown up over the years to explain the outcome of the battle. There are proponents favoring the untimely death of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston as the reason the Rebels didn't press home their successes on the first day; others contend the Confederate second-in-command General P. G. T. Beauregard mistakenly ordered operations to cease while there was still almost an hour of daylight on April 6 and one more attack would have driven Union forces into the Tennessee River or forced them to surrender. Some argue that only the arrival of fresh Union reinforcements from General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Ohio during the night of April 6 allowed Grant to counterattack the next morning and snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Cunningham evades entrapment into this type of causal reductionism and argues that it

was primarily an ignorance of the topography that precipitated the eventual Confederate defeat.

Excellent as it is, Cunningham's dissertation could have been improved prior to publication. The editors do correct factual errors in helpful footnotes and include a revised bibliography of works published since 1966. Perhaps because the author died in 1997 and was thus unable to participate in revisions, the editors were unwilling to tamper with his prose. But readers not already familiar with a basic understanding of the battle could be overwhelmed by the sheer number of individuals mentioned and the many regiments that appear in the narrative. A fuller treatment of the second day's action might have helped the reader appreciate Grant's fierce tenacity and understand why Beauregard's valiant but decimated legions wilted under the onslaught of unbloodied Union regiments and a merciless Tennessee sun.

But these are minor quibbles with an overwhelmingly excellent monograph. The publisher, Savas Beatie, has done its usual fine job of providing useful and plentiful maps drawn by Gary Joiner and the section of modern photographs provides the reader with a sense of place. Shiloh was one of the pivotal battles of the Civil War and deserves the bright, albeit 40 year-old, light that O. Edward Cunningham shines on it.

50 Years Ago

On September 24, 1957, Richard Wayne Lykes spoke to the Round Table. His topic was "The Siege of Petersburg." On September 28, the Round Table enjoyed a field trip to the Petersburg Battlefield led by Thomas Harrison of the National Park Service.

In September 1957, President Eisenhower signed the CWRT Centennial Bill which established a National Commission for the celebration of the Civil War Centennial.

Membership and Annual Dues For the 2007-2008 Program Year

Annual Dues are \$30.00 (\$15.00 after January 31, 2008). The dues must be received by October 1, 2007, for you to continue receiving the newsletter. Please make your check payable to **The CWRT of DC**.

New Member Renewal Address Change Date Submitted: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip (plus 4): _____ - _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Office Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Check here to receive the newsletter by email (preferred distribution method) instead of USPS mail.

The above information is for the membership files and will be published in the membership roster.

Please mail this form and your dues to: CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

If you have any speaker or topic preferences for future meetings, please list on them on the back.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

The deadline for reservations is September 5, 2007.

The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member's Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____
(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____
(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

October 2007
Volume 57, Number 2

Grant, Forrest and the Campaign That Won the War

Did the capture of two relatively obscure Confederate forts in the winter of 1862 really change the course of the Civil War? Were the brilliant military careers of two relatively obscure men, one Union, the other Confederate, launched because of their experiences there? To both questions, Jack Hurst answers a resounding yes. For Hurst, the campaign to capture Forts

Henry and Donelson on the Kentucky-Tennessee border was a wound from which the Confederacy never recovered. For Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest, it was a campaign that defined their characters, honed their military skills, and transformed both soldiers into men of fire.

October 2007 Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, October 9, 2007	Place:	Officers' Club Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
Price:	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		
Agenda:	6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar 6.45 pm Dinner: Chicken Picatta Noodles Alfredo (Vegetarian meals are available Vegetable of the Day upon request in advance.) Tiramisu		
	8:00 pm Speaker: Jack Hurst Topic: Grant, Forrest and the Campaign That Won the War		

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, October 3, 2007. Please send them to:

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Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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President's Column

by Gordon Berg

Like Round Tables around the country, we annually confront the necessity of balancing our mandate to financially support preservation efforts with what I believe is the responsibility of providing our members with a broad range of new and established Civil War scholars as speakers at our monthly meetings. With a limited budget and comparatively small membership, we need to be energetic and creative in order to achieve both goals.

Over the years, members have been exceptionally generous in supporting preservation efforts, especially contributions to organizations Ed Bearss annually designates in return for leading our yearly field trip, a privilege accorded our Round Table on which no monetary value can be placed. Additionally, participants on our day trips contribute toward local preservation efforts and contributions to the Bearss Bear has been a resource on which we can draw for worthy causes.

Preservation efforts benefit the Round Table in several ways. We join with other organizations to preserve hallowed ground which, once lost, can rarely, if ever, be regained. We also build good will with individuals and organizations involved in similar activities. Finally, we can generate favorable public exposure for the Round Table if we maximize our efforts to publicize our good works. This can lead to increased membership and financial solvency. To further these efforts, we will soon announce the dates and destination of our annual field trip and the first of several local day trips.

I believe the Round Table also has a responsibility to those of our members who carve out time from their busy schedules to attend the monthly meetings to provide interesting experts on a wide range of Civil War issues. We are fortunate to be in an area rich in Civil War locales and in individuals with Civil

War expertise. The first speaker, Chandra Manning, is a professor at Georgetown and November's speaker, Chuck Mauro, is a local preservationist from Fairfax County. Anne Rubin, December's speaker, comes from nearby Baltimore and Ed Bearss will take a break from his hectic schedule to speak to us in April. The costs associated with these speakers is minimal.

This year, however, I have selected five speakers from "beyond the beltway." For them, the Round Table pays for transportation and one night's lodging. However, our next speaker, Jack Hurst, comes to us from Nashville, Tennessee, at no cost because his expenses are being paid by his publisher as part of a national book tour. The other four speakers hail from Cleveland, Ohio, Denver, Colorado, San Angelo, Texas, and Valparaiso, Indiana. One is an old friend of mine and he will lodge with me. For the others, we have budgeted approximately \$500 per speaker; a reasonable rate considering Washington DC is an expensive travel destination.

This year's Executive Board has worked hard to enable the Round Table to meet both of its goals. We need your continued participation in all of the Round Table's monthly meetings, day trips, and annual field trip to insure that we continue to meet our priorities in the years to come.

25 Years Ago

Dennis Frye, a full-time historian at Harper's Ferry National Historic Park, spoke to the Round Table on October 12, 1982, about the siege and capture of Harper's Ferry..

50 Years Ago

The story of the turbulent 1850s was told to the Round Table on October 15, 1957, by Dr. Avery O. Craven, professor of history at Chicago University since 1927.

Jack Hurst

Jack Hurst is a former journalist who has written for several of the nation's leading newspapers. The descendent of both Union and Confederate soldiers, he has written a biography of Nathan Bedford Forrest considered "an outstanding study of one of the Civil War's more controversial generals. Essential." Mr. Hurst lives outside of Nashville, TN and his eclectic interests also include country music. He has written a book about the first fifty years of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry.

Steamboat Era Museum

From 1861 to 1865, as America was wracked by the Civil War, the Chesapeake Bay became the focus of attention for gunboats, smugglers, privateers, the water-borne movement of mighty armies, shoreline artillery fire, tidewater guerrillas, blockade-running oystermen, and the unsung sailors of the Union's Potomac Flotilla. The Civil War was one of the most dangerous and stressful periods in the long and colorful history of the Chesapeake Bay. The Bay was rarely livelier and its role in the outcome of the War was a crucial one.

The Steamboat Era Museum of Irvington, Virginia, is currently conducting an exhibit entitled "The Bay at War." The exhibit examines the effects the Civil War had on the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and Eastern Shore areas of Virginia. The story is told using a variety of exhibit vehicles that include a 15-minute overview film, dioramas, models, interactive activities, artifacts, and video-based oral histories.

The first steamboat built in Baltimore, aptly called the Chesapeake, was completed in 1813. Its launching heralded the arrival of steam-powered vessels on the Chesapeake Bay, the East Coast's largest estuary. By 1817 the Eagle and the Virginia were making regularly scheduled runs between Norfolk and Baltimore, and soon steamboat wharfs dotted the Bay's

western and eastern shores. During the "Golden Age of the Steamboat" (1880 through the mid-1930s), between seventy-five and one-hundred vessels plied the Bay and its tributaries.

Steamboats were important to the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula, providing an economic anchor and lifeline for most of the inhabitants of our region. Norfolk and, more predominately, Baltimore acted as gateways to the larger world beyond. The cities provided the markets, the towns provided the goods, and the steamboats provided the means to both.

Steamboat Era Museum is a memorial to a romantic and entrepreneurial time that helped broaden our horizons and shape our world. As we say in our motto: "We are who we are because steamboats were."

The Steamboat Era Museum is located in Irvington on the Northern Neck of Virginia. It is about 3 hours from Washington, DC, 1 and 1/4 hours from Richmond, and 1 and 1/2 hours from Norfolk.

Directions from the North - Washington, DC; Baltimore: Take Interstate 95 to exit 126 to US 17 South to Tappahannock. Turn left onto Route 360 East at the second stoplight. Cross the Rappahannock River and continue to Warsaw. Pass through Warsaw and bear right before a traffic light onto Route 3 East to Kilmarnock. Entering Kilmarnock, go to the fourth stoplight and turn right onto Route 200 South, Irvington Road. Go approximately 4 miles into Irvington and turn right onto Route 634, King Carter Drive. The Steamboat Era Museum is on the right just past the bank.

Steamboat Era Museum

156 King Carter Drive

Irvington, VA 22480

804-438-6888

<http://www.steamboatermuseum.org>

Open May 5 - December 2, 2007

Hours: Thu., Fri., Sat. 10 am-4 pm

Sun. 1-4 pm

Mary Book Signing

LA Times 2006 Book Prize finalist Janis Cooke Newman, author of the novel **Mary** (Harcourt/Harvest Paperback, Pub Date: October 1, 2007), is embarking on her nationwide paperback book tour. She will be making an appearance in Washington DC at Olssons Books - Dupont Circle (1307 19th St., NW) on Thursday, October 4th, at 7 pm.

In **Mary**, Mary Todd Lincoln shares the story of her life in her own words and gets inside the mind and heart of this intelligent, unconventional, and possibly mad woman. The novel addresses the way in which America looks at, and often down on, ambitious women. (In fact, while writing this book, Newman says she was frequently reminded of Hillary Clinton.)

Newman, also the author of the memoir **The Russian Word for Snow**, has written a dramatic tale filled with passion and depression, poverty and ridicule, infidelity and redemption. **Mary** allows us entry into the inner, intimate world of this brave and fascinating woman.

16th Annual Sarasota Civil War Symposium

The Civil War Education Association will host the 16th Annual Sarasota Civil War Symposium, at the Helmsley Castle Hotel, January 23-26, 2008, in Sarasota, Florida, with William C. "Jack" Davis, Edwin C. Bearss, Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., Gary W. Gallagher, Joseph T. Glatthaar, Robert K. Krick, Scott C. Patchan, Charles P. Roland and John Y. Simon. The \$395 cost includes two receptions and two lunches.

Contact the CWEA for registration details.

http://www.cwea.net/SAR_2008_CW-WEB.htm

Book Review by Gordon Berg

Men of Fire: Grant, Forrest, and the Campaign That Decided the Civil War

Jack Hurst

Basic Books, 2007, \$27.95

Good reporters have a nose for a good story and Jack Hurst is a good reporter. The tale he tells in his latest book has all the ingredients of a first-rate adventure yarn; desperate men fighting in desperate conditions, embattled courage and self-serving knavery, just-in-time arrivals and skulking departures, good luck and bad planning. But most of all, it has two men of heroic stature, two men of fire.

Hurst's story is of a Civil War winter campaign in February 1862 that he calls the "Battle of the Bulge without overcoats." Its objectives were to capture two Confederate forts, Fort Henry on the Tennessee River and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River. Together, they stood like sentinels, blocking strategic riverine avenues into the Confederate heartland. Hurst argues that their capture, by combined Union naval and ground forces, "slashed an ever-widening, mortal wound that split the Confederacy asunder" and changed the course of the Civil War.

For leading men in this martial drama, Hurst chooses a ruffled, unimposing West Point graduate with an undistinguished prewar military career, a series of failed civilian endeavors, and a reputation for favoring John Barleycorn when things got tough. Union Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant had yet to win a battle, escaped defeat at Belmont through luck more than skill, and he



Ulysses S. Grant

seemed an unlikely candidate to be a military hero by his elitist superiors.

Grant's Confederate counterpart at least looked heroic. Tall and lean with deep-set gray eyes and chiseled features, he sat on a horse ramrod straight. Unlettered, profane, and without military experience, Lieutenant Colonel Nathan Bedford Forrest rose from grinding rural Tennessee poverty to become a millionaire slave trader and plantation owner. Nevertheless, these two men, from different backgrounds and with vastly different political and cultural views, shared a profound understanding of men in battle, an instinctive grasp of how to obtain geographical tactical advantage, and a fierce determination to do whatever necessary to achieve victory.



Nathan Bedford Forrest

The campaign to capture the two Confederate river forts has been carefully chronicled before and Hurst pays appropriate homage to Edwin Bearss and Benjamin Franklin Cooling for their groundbreaking efforts; indeed Hurst reproduces some of the hour-by-hour maps they produced as National Park Service staff. These maps, along with numerous portraits of the campaign's leading and supporting characters allows Hurst to infuse his story with a personal identity and a feeling of events unfolding right before our eyes.

The capture of Fort Henry, abysmally located on low lying ground along the riverbank, was effected by a fleet of ironclad gunboats commanded by feisty Commodore Andrew H. Foote before Grant's regiments arrived. Most of the Confederates managed to escape to Fort Donelson while Confederate General Lloyd Tilghman surrendered to Foote aboard his flagship *Cincinnati*. Grant had achieved an easy victory.

Fort Donelson would be a tougher nut to crack. The weather turned bitterly cold, the gunboats cannons proved ineffective against fort's thicker walls and better armament, and Grant had to fight not only the Confederates but the innate conservatism of his commander, Major General Henry W. Halleck, and the overzealousness of his senior subordinate commander, Brigadier General John A. McClernand.

Hurst provides a pulse pounding account of the futile Union assaults, the ruthless conniving among the Confederate high command regarding escape or surrender, the savage fighting and near disastrous defeat of the besieging Union forces, and the raging fury exhibited by Forrest who refused to surrender his command.

But Grant's luck held even though he was not on the field of battle when the Confederates almost succeeded in breaking the siege. He accepted the surrender of the fort, with an astounding 12,000 Confederate prisoners, from a prewar friend and benefactor, Confederate Brigadier General Simon Bolivar Buckner, one of the many subordinate players who populate Hurst's narrative.

In the book, the character of Grant is more fully developed than that of Forrest, perhaps because Grant played a larger role in the overall planning and execution of the campaign, perhaps because Hurst has previously written a full length biography of the fabled Confederate horseman.

Grant and Forrest would meet only once more on the field of battle, at Shiloh two months later, but their fighting qualities were honed in the mud and the cold along the banks of two meandering Tennessee rivers. Read the book and decide for yourself if this early campaign decided the outcome of the Civil War and made Grant and Forrest men of fire.

Membership and Annual Dues For the 2007-2008 Program Year

Annual Dues are \$30.00 (\$15.00 after January 31, 2008). The dues must be received by October 1, 2007, for you to continue receiving the newsletter. Please make your check payable to **The CWRT of DC**.

New Member Renewal Address Change Date Submitted: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip (plus 4): _____ - _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ - _____ Office Phone: (____) _____ - _____

Check here to receive the newsletter by email (preferred distribution method) instead of USPS mail.

The above information is for the membership files and will be published in the membership roster.

Please mail this form and your dues to: CWRT of DC Membership Committee

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

If you have any speaker or topic preferences for future meetings, please list on them on the back.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, October 9, 2007.

The deadline for reservations is October 3, 2007.

The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member's Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____
(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____
(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

November 2007
Volume 57, Number 3

Civil War Close to Home

It could be argued that Fairfax County, Virginia, experienced the hard hand of war more than any other locality in the country.

Located on the doorstep of Washington, DC and on the most direct route to Richmond, Virginia, the residents of Fairfax County had a front row seat to the marching, fighting, and billeting of armies blue and gray for four long years.

Local historian Chuck Mauro has delved into the records of the Southern Claims Commission to find moving human interest stories of local residents thrown into the path of opposing armies.

Learn what it's like to live under military occupation in a war that was fought close to home.

November 2007 Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, November 13, 2007	Place:	Officers' Club Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
Price:	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		
Agenda:	6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar 6.45 pm Dinner: Pork Chops Mashed Potatoes (Vegetarian meals are available Vegetable of the Day upon request in advance.) Ice Cream		
	8:00 pm Speaker: Chuck Mauro Topic: Civil War Close to Home		

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, November 12, 2007. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests
are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2

Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

President: Gordon Berg
Home: 301-509-9469
Email: gordonberg@yahoo.com

Vice President: Thomas R. Devaney
Home: 703-385-6546
Office: 202-413-7200
Email: trdevaney48@msn.com

Board Member: Twyla Jackino
Home: 571-434-3819
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Email: tjackino@comcast.net

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Home: 703-536-5464
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Email: wendy.swanson@ssa.gov

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Email: trusearch@aol.com

Board Member: James Hurdle
Home: 703-525-3681
Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

Treasurer: John W. Restall
Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

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CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

by Gordon Berg

The National Archives and Records Administration is already planning its largest and most elaborate traveling exhibition to mark the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and our own Henry Rivera, as vice chairman of the private sector Foundation for the National Archives, is playing an important role in helping to bring this important project to fruition. And there's a part to be played by everyone interested in studying, preserving, and commemorating the pivotal role the Civil War played in forming the American nation.

The exhibit, entitled "Discovering the Civil War," will be 6,000 square feet of displayed original documents, immersive environments, and interactive exhibits modeled on the award winning Public Vaults exhibition already installed in the headquarters building of the Archives. Those of us engaged in our own Civil War researches know that the National Archives is an unsurpassed repository of fascinating information on well-known events and little-known episodes in our nation's history. By drawing on these holdings, the exhibit will use letters, maps, photographs, telegrams, military dispatches, and the personal service records and pension files of individual soldiers to breathe new life into an era of our national history that reverberates to the present day.

"Discovering the Civil War" will take a long view of the conflict, beginning with John Brown's raid on the Harper's Ferry arsenal in 1859 and extending beyond the surrender of the last Confederate armies in 1865. The exhibit is not intended to answer questions that swirl around the greatest of our national controversies, rather it will try to get visitors to understand that historians and others hold multiple views about the war and the reconstruction efforts that followed the end of open hostilities. The Archives and the Foundation will also develop a companion

catalog, web resources, and teaching tools to accompany the exhibit.

This exhibit is a public/private partnership and at least half of the expected three million dollar cost must come from non-governmental sources. But beyond monetary support, there is a role to be played by Civil War historians, preservationists, re-enactors and even those with only a casual interest in the conflict. Washington is a city of rolodexes; all of us know people who know people who talk to other people. We understand the sense of wonder that comes with discovering new perspectives on well-known events and finding unexpected mysteries hidden in the residue of the past. Spread the word about the importance of this exhibit in keeping our history alive for future generations. There's sure to be something in it that's new and exciting for all of us.

SPECIAL PROJECT:

Help the CWRT of DC Form a REGIMENT

The Civil War Preservation Trust assigns regimental status for contributions of \$1000 or more by organizations. To draw more attention to CWRT of DC, we are trying to collect the \$1000 and become an organized REGIMENT by the end of 2007.

To help, mail a donation or make cash contributions to John Restall during the November and December meetings. This special project terminates December 31, 2007.

Chuck Mauro

Chuck Mauro is a local historian, photographer, and documentary film producer living in Herndon, Virginia. He has written numerous local history monographs including the award winning "The Battle of Chantilly: A Monumental Storm." He is a member of numerous historical and photographic groups and works for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Book Review by Gordon Berg

The Civil War in Fairfax County: Soldiers and Civilians

Charles V. Mauro

History Press, 2007, 153 pp, \$21.99

The residents of Fairfax County, Virginia, felt the hard hand of the Civil War on their farms and in their hamlets from the earliest days of the conflict. Strategically located on the doorstep of the Union capital of Washington, DC and on the most direct route to the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, armies blue and gray fought, marched, and camped throughout the county for four long years.

Chuck Mauro, an experienced local historian and photographer, has given voice to the men and women living in Fairfax County and vividly describes the devastation wrought on their homes and property by making ingenious use of the records of the Southern Claims Commission, a government agency set up by Congress in 1870 to address civilian claims for loss of personal property to the Union army in 12 southern states during the war. Mauro persuasively argues that the claims processed by the commission “created a fascinating paper trail from the claimants and from the people who testified for or against the claimants, providing a wealth of detail about the lives of the civilians as they faced the uncertainty of war on a daily basis.”

Mauro’s clear, concise narrative brings to life the daily routines of the county’s black and white families. The book also contains numerous historic photographs from the files of the Fairfax County Public Library and contemporary photos taken by the author. Four large maps deftly link past and present, giving the reader a sense of place. Many of the localities described in the text still exist, now hidden in the midst of modern suburban communities.

The battle of Chantilly was the only major engagement fought within Fairfax County, but its hills and valleys were home to the storied Confederate cavalier John Singleton Mosby and his celebrated band of cavalry irregulars. Less well known, perhaps, were the exploits of Laura Ratcliffe who lived just south of Herndon. She regularly supplied information to Southern cavalry officers and Mosby credited her with saving his life by warning him of a Union trap set for him near Frying Pan Church.

Life in Fairfax County continued to change even after the war ended. Mauro notes that many Northern soldiers who had lived and fought in the county during the war chose to live there after hostilities ceased. These new residents helped breathe life into the war-ravaged county while many old-line county families struggled to reconcile their traditional beliefs with the sweeping economic and social changes that came about as a result of the conflict. County residents would submit 196 claims totaling more than one million dollars to the Southern Claims Commission; just over \$68,000 was paid. The price of the Civil War in Fairfax County was a heavy one and most of the cost was paid by its residents.

25 Years Ago

James V. Murfin, the author of **The Glean of Bayonets**, the story of the Campaign of Antietam and winner of the Fletcher Pratt Award in 1965, spoke to the Round Table on November 9, 1982, about the relationships between Lincoln and McClellan, and between Roosevelt and MacArthur.

50 Years Ago

Harnett Kane spoke to the Round Table on November 12, 1957. His topic was his new novel **The Gallant Mrs. Stonewall**. He had spoken to the Round Table two years previously about “Spies for the Blue and Gray.”

**Tenting Tonight:
Songs of the Civil War**

Judy Cook has announced the release of her CD "Tenting Tonight: Songs of the Civil War". To celebrate, she will be giving her acclaimed hour-long, multi-media program for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. In this program she dresses in 19th Century style, reads excerpts from the Civil War correspondence of her own great-great-grandfather to introduce the songs, and accompany the songs with projected pictures. Following the program there will be a reception with refreshments.

She would like to invite members of the Civil War Round Table of DC to attend the CD release program and reception at Glen Echo Town Hall on Thursday, November 15th at 8pm. Admission is \$20.

If anyone is unable to attend, but would like to purchase the CD, they can send a check for \$15 made out to Judy Cook. Indicate that it is for "Tenting Tonight CD", and send it along with mailing name & address to:

Judy Cook
16125 Malcolm Drive
Laurel, MD 20707-3230

**CD Release Program & Reception
"Tenting Tonight: Songs of the Civil War"**

A Multi-Media Program of Songs and Images with Internationally Touring Ballad Singer Judy Cook

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 8pm

Glen Echo Town Hall
6106 Harvard Avenue
Glen Echo, MD 20812

The one-hour multi-media program will be followed by a reception with refreshments.

Admission \$20.

Reduced Rates:

FSGW Members (\$15),

Students (\$10) and

Glen Echo Town Residents (Free)

For information, call 301-776-4314 or email judy@judycok.net

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The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

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Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$ _____

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Total enclosed: \$ _____

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3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Ghost Tour of the National Building Museum

by Susan Claffey

OK, everybody, I need 14 warm bodies to join me on a private ghost tour of the National Building Museum on Monday, November 26 from 7 to 8 PM. The charge is \$14.00 per person.

I don't know if you saw the article "Museum by Day, Mystery by Night" in the Washington Post last Friday (October 26) but I did and I was intrigued. All the tours, including the ones they added after Halloween due to demand, were all sold out so I could not go. Since I don't like the word "no," I asked if they would do a private tour and they agreed, but I need 15 people for it.

I think it will be interesting, educational and great fun. Please let me know ASAP if you are willing to join me on this tour so I can lock it in.

Don't tell me no.

Contact Susan Claffey at:

Home: 301-326-2477

Work: 202-654-2907

E-Mail: sclaffey@gsabc.com

The Washington Post article may be read at this URL:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-yn/content/article/2007/10/25/AR2007102500753.html>

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

December 2007
Volume 57, Number 4

Reactions to Sherman's March

The Civil War radically altered aspects of American life far beyond the battlefield and long after the guns were silenced. Confederates lived lives unlike those of other Americans, particularly in terms of national identity. In a little over four years they abandoned their sense of themselves as Americans, became Confederates, and were then ordered to become Americans again, ready to participate in a society significantly different

from the one they had left. But before they could regain their status as citizens, Confederates had to swear to an oath of their renewed loyalty to the United States. Anne Sarah Rubin will explore the ways that white Southerners negotiated the shifting racial, gender, and social boundaries between Confederate and American during the Civil War and the early part of Reconstruction.

December 2007 Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, December 11, 2007	Place:	Officers' Club
Price:	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
Agenda:	6:00 pm Social Hour: 6.45 pm Dinner:	Cash Bar Salmon Roasted Red Potatoes Vegetable of the Day Key Lime Pie	(Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
	8:00 pm Speaker: Topic:	Anne Rubin Reactions to Sherman's March	

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

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Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

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Board Member: Twyla Jackino
Home: 571-434-3819
Office: 202-628-1776 x446
Email: tjackino@comcast.net

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Email: wendy.swanson@ssa.gov

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Home: 703-780-3874
Email: trusearch@aol.com

Board Member: James Hurdle
Home: 703-525-3681
Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

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Home: 703-578-1942
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Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

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Newsletter by Email

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Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

by Gordon Berg

I occasionally take the opportunity to surf the Internet looking at the web sites of other round tables and believe that our web site and newsletter are among the best, both in layout and content. Ken Rice is responsible for both and it has been his policy, one I wholeheartedly agree with, to generally to avoid reprinting news and feature items from other sources. I published both in-house and public information newsletters during my professional career and found that timely information about the activities of colleagues was uniformly of interest to readers of in-house newsletters.

The Executive Board has brainstormed ideas about how to improve the newsletter and make it more relevant to round table members. I have encouraged member submissions in a previous column and Ken has recently published a book review by Jim Hurdle. Ken and I are certainly open to suggestions from members on what they would like to see regularly in the newsletter. Talk or e-mail us with your ideas.

Until the avalanche of suggestions inundates us, I have three suggestions to perhaps get us started. I think that the sharing of information of interest to round table members is critical to maintaining the newsletter as an effective internal communications vehicle.

First, there are a number of our members actively pursuing research topics with the intent to publish their findings sometime in the future. Gail Stephens is hard at work on what I am sure will be the definitive monograph on the wartime career of Union General Lew Wallace. Mark Bradley is the author of two widely acclaimed books about the Civil War in North Carolina, **Bentonville** and **This Miraculous Close: The Road to Bennett Place** and is probably working on new ventures even now. I have several outlines for magazine articles that I hope to pursue in the coming months. Anyone else researching and writing? About what and for

whom? I'd like to know because I'm always interested in new scholarship and perhaps a fellow round table member has come across information related to a particular topic and would share it. Our newsletter can regularly include a section profiling the on-going research of our members.

If you're not writing, perhaps you're reading a Civil War-related book or article that you find particularly interesting. Share your enthusiasms! You have some idea of my reading habits through the book reviews I submit to Ken each month. Right now I'm reading Mark Neely, Jr.'s provocative new book **The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction**. If you don't want to write a full-length review, that's cool; just give Ken the title of the book, new or old, and a sentence or two on what you think of it. Maybe you purchased the book and would be willing to lend it to another interested round table reader. Maybe you found a used book store richly endowed with Civil War titles. I'm always on the lookout for new and interesting dusty shelves to explore.

Finally, walked a battlefield recently? Taken a new trail or blazed one "off the beaten path?" Where did you go? What struck you on your rambles? Do you have any suggestions for the those of us who might follow later? I know we have battlefield explorers in our midst. I know Wendy Swanson, Gail Stephens, Susan Claffey, John Restall, Twyla Jackino, and Dalton Trulock are serious students of Civil War topography and I, for one, would like to know where they've been recently and what they thought about it.

Speaking of topography, don't miss January speaker Professor Mike Owens who will escort us through the psychic and geographic topography of Civil War soldier and, later, famed short story writer, Ambrose Bierce. You won't want to miss his fascinating take on the Civil War.

Book Review by Gordon Berg

History Teaches Us To Hope: Reflections on the Civil War and Southern History

Charles P. Roland; edited by John David Smith
University of Kentucky Press, 2007,
353pp., \$45

Find yourself a quiet hour somewhere between the dark and daylight. Settle back; a wicker lounge on your gallery bolstered with feather pillows will do nicely. Then, with only the hum of crickets, the occasional hoot of a morning dove, and, perhaps a soothing beverage -- a glass of single barrel bourbon, neat, would be appropriate -- for company, open **History Teaches Us To Hope** and let Charles P. Roland take you to another time and place, strikingly different yet eerily similar to the one in which we live now. Read slowly, aloud even. Surrender to the clarity of the arguments and listen to the surety of language used to make them. You are in the company of a master storyteller. And what better compliment to pay a historian.

The 18 essays collected by John David Smith serve as a window into the fertile intellect of one of America's elite historians of the Civil War and the American South. I'd wager that elite is not how this 89-year old son of western Tennessee would characterize himself but even a cursory review of his intellectual bloodlines makes any other word seem inadequate. Undergraduate years at Vanderbilt University in the late 1930s when "The Agrarians" held sway were followed by three years as a captain in the 99th Infantry, the outfit that held Belgium's Losheim Gap against the Sixth Panzer Army during the Battle of the Bulge in the frigid winter of 1944, crossed the Rhine River on the railroad bridge at Remagen in March 1945, and served for a time as provost guard during the 1947 Nuremberg war crimes trials. Graduate studies at Louisiana State University, even with the legendary Bell Irvin Wiley, Francis Butler Simkins and T. Harry Williams for teachers, must have seemed tame by comparison. Roland

has since divided his academic career between Tulane University and the University of Kentucky, where he is currently Alumni Professor Emeritus of History. He has also somehow found the time to write five groundbreaking books along the way.

The essays are divided into four sections and readers are advised not to skip any of them. The first three are autobiographical and includes "A Citizen Soldier Recalls World War II," a soulful reverie of men against fire. Roland has always maintained that his experiences in uniform helped him empathize with the panoply of feelings held by volunteer soldiers of any era. The next five essays survey the coming of the Civil War, essays in which Roland insists that slavery was only one of many causes of America's irrepressible conflict. The epistolary "A Southerner's Defense of Slavery" allows Roland to attribute many of the arguments used to defend the "peculiar institution" by a fictitious Louisiana plantation owner representative of his class to a former college friend living in the North.

The five essays on the nature of Confederate military leadership are superb. Roland's 1964 biography of General Albert Sidney Johnston remains unrivalled and the essay on Johnson's defense of the Confederate west is balanced and insightful. So too are the three essays on the relationship between the generalship and the character of Robert E. Lee. "Robert E. Lee is America's great tragic hero, in the classical use of the expression," Roland writes. "He was a supremely gifted soldier and a fervently devoted patriot, yet he fought for the most unacceptable of American causes, session and slavery, and he suffered the most un-American of experiences, defeat." (The book's title, in fact, comes from an 1870 letter Lee wrote to Colonel Charles Marshall.) The last group of essays deal with the metamorphosis of the South. They could only have been written by someone imbued with the region's traditions and steeped in its cultural morays. Nevertheless, Roland approaches his native region with same open mind and clear-

eyed discernment that he brings to all his historical analysis.

At the conclusion of your sojourn, you may not agree with all of Roland’s interpretations and conclusions; he wouldn’t expect that you should. What he would expect, I suspect, would be that you analyze the data and the arguments in an orderly manner and arrive at your own understanding of the complex issues and events under discussion. It’s the time honored method for expanding the universe of knowledge and deepening the paths of understanding that Roland learned from his mentors and the way he practices his craft today.

William Faulkner, another son of the fertile region that spawned Charles Roland, wrote that “the past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Charles Roland’s books, essays, and lectures enable him to live in the eternal present, sharing his wisdom about the past to generations yet unborn. We are all enriched by his timeless gift.

Anne Sarah Rubin

Anne Sarah Rubin is associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with expertise on race, gender and social issues in the American South during the antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction periods. She collaborated with Professor Edward J. Ayers on developing the groundbreaking multi-dimensional **Valley of the Shadow Project** and is the author of **A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868**, winner of the 2006 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians, along with numerous articles and book reviews. Her dissertation at the University of Virginia “Redefining the South: Confederates, Southerners, and Americans, 1863-1868” was runner-up for the Allan Nevins Prize, given annually by the Society of American Historians for the best dissertation in American history, 1999.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, December 10, 2007.

The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member’s Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest’s Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____

(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
 3324 Glenmore Dr.
 Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

The Wartime Effects of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart Now on Display

The Museum of the Confederacy is pleased to announce that the most complete collection of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's wartime effects will be exhibited to the public together for the first time in a over a century. The Virginia Historical Society's collection of Stuart items will be on special loan to the Museum of the Confederacy until 2010. The collection will join the Museum's already extensive collection of Stuart artifacts currently on display in The Confederate Years, the Museum's permanent exhibit. New items on special loan include his Whitney pistol, uniform jacket, vest, trousers, and the blood-stained sash worn at the time of his mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern in May of 1864. Those items join the Museum's regular Stuart display that includes his French-made hat with ostrich plume, LeMat pistol and holster, saddle, boots, gauntlets, French cavalry saber, sword belt, Calisher & Terry carbine, and field desk.

"This exhibit is one of the most complete exhibits of personal effects of an important Civil War general ever on display," stated Robert Hancock, the Museum of the Confederacy's director of collections and senior curator. "It combines the two separate, venerable collections of Stuart artifacts and has an impressive presence in the Museum."

25 Years Ago

On December 14, 1982, Colonel Joseph B. Mitchell spoke to the Round Table about "The Generalship of Stonewall Jackson." It was his eleventh presentation to the Round Table.

50 Years Ago

Colonel Robert S. Hall spoke to the Round Table on December 10, 1957, about "Chaplains of the Civil War." Colonel Hall was a Chaplain at Fort Meade.

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

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There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

January 2008
Volume 57, Number 5

Ambrose Bierce: The Devil's Topographer

Ambrose Bierce served in the 9th Indiana Infantry and later as a military mapmaker in the Army of the Cumberland. He was a veteran of every major battle in the West and his military service profoundly influenced a series of brilliant short stories about soldiers and civilians that he wrote after the war. David M. Owens will identify and examine the actual

terrain in which Bierce's Civil War stories are set and compare them with his military experience and the historical record. Don't miss this unique opportunity to follow Bierce's personal pilgrimage through the conflict and, at the same time, journey into the psyche of a most unusual soldier and underappreciated American writer.

January 2008 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 8, 2008

Place: Officers' Club
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, DC

Price: Dinner \$29.00 per person
Lecture only \$5.00

Agenda: 6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar
6:45 pm Dinner: Lasagna
Vegetable of the Day (Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
Chocolate Cake
8:00 pm Speaker: David M. Owens
Topic: Ambrose Bierce: The Devil's Topographer

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, January 7, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

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Vice President: Thomas R. Devaney
Home: 703-385-6546
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Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

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CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

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For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

Book Review by Gordon Berg

Honor in Command:

Lt. Freeman S. Bowley's Civil War Service in the 30th United States Colored Infantry

Edited by Keith Wilson

University Press of Florida, 300pp., 2006

When 19 year-old Freeman Sparks Bowley joined Company H of the 30th United States Colored Troops (USCT) at Manassas Junction, Virginia, on May 4, 1864, as a newly commissioned second lieutenant, he had never been in a battle and had probably before never seen a black person in his young life. By the time he was mustered out of service on December 22, 1865, Bowley managed to see action in only one significant battle, served eight months as a prisoner of war, and spent rest of his brief military career carrying out routine peace keeping duties in coastal North Carolina.

This might seem a flimsy framework around which to build an important Civil War memoir. It's anything but. Bowley's *bildungsroman* was written while he was living in San Francisco and working as a fireman on the Santa Fe Railroad. Published originally on the front page of the *National Tribune* between April 20 and September 7, 1899, it remains an unusually cogent and artfully crafted account of the life of a white officer in a black regiment in the Army of the Potomac. Keith Wilson, a lecturer in history at Monash University in Australia, has provided very helpful annotations and an extremely insightful introduction that add significantly to the reader's understanding of what is surely one of the best first-hand accounts of the carnage that took place in the battle of The Crater, the experiences endured by Union prisoners of war, and the everyday lives of African American soldiers.

But to read Bowley's memoirs as an "I am the camera" report of events would be a mistake. In the Introduction, Wilson understands that "he may have succumbed to

the temptation to reconstruct his recollections in order to support the broader ideological themes of his narrative." The memories of Bowley's Civil War experiences, like those of the sardonic journalist Ambrose Bierce, never left him. Also like Bierce, he took no notes of his activities during the war but relied on vivid memories recollected in tranquility to recall to the eye of the mind long ago events. But, while Bierce used short stories to tell his unique version of the war, Bowley, beginning in 1870, constructed at least four drafts of memoirs, and while their overall content remained consistent, he made subtle changes over the years to make his story more in keeping with current feelings of his veteran readers.

Bowley, self consciously I believe, set out to achieve three main goals through his memoirs. First, he wanted to document his growth from an innocent Maine youth to an honorable and patriotic man. "From the timid, bashful, irresolute boy," Bowley wrote, he had "come to have confidence" in himself and was able to do his "duty as well as anyone." Second, he wanted to promote the spirit of national reconciliation that grew in the Gilded Age, but a reconciliation that was built on the principles of emancipation and equal opportunity for all that were so hard won but, by the 1890's, were in danger of being subverted.

Finally, he wanted to give voice to the white officers who served in the USCT and to give a sense of humanity to the individual black soldiers whose contribution to the war effort had essentially been written out of the history books. His day-to-day experiences with the former slaves in his company made a deep impression on the young innocent. Through the pages of his memoir, he paints vivid word pictures of men who emerge as flesh and blood human beings rather than indistinguishable black bodies in blue uniforms. While he clearly retains many of the racist traits typical of his time, Bowley comes to understand and respect the men he commands and it is this last objective, brilliantly

achieved, that makes Bowley's memoir different and important.

Bowley had a fourth, and less altruistic motive, for writing about his experiences. Three white officers in his regiment received the Medal of Honor for their actions in the Crater. Bowley believed he should have been similarly recognized. Bowley probably deserved the medal but several petitions to the Secretary of War were unsuccessful. His vivid recollection of the action that fateful July 31, 1864 puts him at the center of the slaughter. "We were not 10 yards away from the redoubt," Bowley wrote, "when there came the rushing, hurtling sound of grapeshot in close proximity, and I heard a crashing sound almost at my side, like that made by a butcher when he strikes a piece of meat with his cleaver. Turning a little, I saw a great gap in the left of the company; a file of four men had been swept away from my very side."

Captured and forced to march through jeering crowds of civilians in Petersburg, Bowley and others were sent to the Richland Jail in Columbia SC, the first lot of officers who had been captured with black soldiers. He admitted fear but when asked his unit, he manfully replied "Thirtieth United States Colored Infantry" and then anxiously watched as the words "negro officer" were written opposite his name. Bowley vividly describes the social dynamics of prison life including his refusal of an offer to become a "galvanized Yankee" by accepting a commission in the Confederate army.

Bowley served eight months in various prisons. He was frequently on the move because of the advance of Sherman's army through the Carolinas. On March 1, 1865, he was exchanged near Northeast River, 10 miles from Wilmington, NC. In a scene worthy of Hollywood, Bowley's old regiment was there to greet him, having just participated in the capture of Fort Fisher. The meeting of comrades, white and black, gives Bowley the opportunity to recapitulate the manly exploits of his regiment.

While awaiting formal reinstatement to his regiment at Camp Parole near Annapolis, MD, Bowley learned of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. At the funeral services in Washington, DC on April 19, "it was my privilege to form one of the escort, and to stand directly opposite the funeral car as it stood in front of the White House."

When the soldiers of the 30th USCT were mustered out of service on December 22, 1865, on Federal Hill in Baltimore, MD, each of them was different from the man who originally enlisted. Every man of Company H heartily shook Bowley's hand and received his manly grip in return. Then they "faced to the right in four ranks, tossed their rifles to the 'right shoulder shift' and with the old swinging veteran step marched out through the gates of Fort Federal Hill." The regiment never reunited. It lives eternally, however, in the memoirs of Freeman Sparks Bowley.

David M. Owens

David M. Owens is an associate professor of English at Valparaiso University and his academic interests include American literature between the Civil War and World War II, literary modernism, and composition. He received his B.S. in Arts and Sciences from the United States Military Academy; his MA from the University of Georgia; and his PhD from Purdue University. **The Devil's Topographer** is his first book. His non academic pursuits include playing the banjo.

25 Years Ago

On January 11, 1983, Dr. Edward Steers, Jr., spoke to the Round Table about "Why Was Lincoln Murdered?" Dr. Steers, a native of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, was a Research Biologist in the National Institute of Arthritis, Metabolism and Digestive Diseases at the National Institute of health.

50 Years Ago

Dr. Warren J. Hassler spoke to the Round Table on January 14, 1958, about “General George B. McClellan: a Reevaluation.” Dr. Hassler, a native of Baltimore, was an Assistant Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University. He wrote the biography **General George B. McClellan, Shield of the Union** (LSU Press).

Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian
By Edward Bonekemper

Grant and Lee: Victorious American and Vanquished Virginian is a riveting, comprehensive analysis of the Civil War that appeals to both experts and novices. It takes controversial, but substantiated, positions on many of the debatable issues of the war. Its documentation is exhaustive. It contains two extensive and complete analyses of the casualties incurred and imposed by the armies of Lee and Grant. Those appendices provide the basis for the startling conclusions that Lee’s army suffered more than 208,000 casualties

while those of Grant suffered “only” about 154,000.

Those numbers provide an objective basis for one of the book’s core arguments that Lee was far too aggressive a general for the Confederacy, which did not have the burden of pro-actively winning the war and which could not afford to squander its manpower. The book also demonstrates that Lee was a Virginian first and a Confederate second – priorities that led him to a bloody stalemate in the East and disastrous impacts on Vicksburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Atlanta, and other major battles and campaigns in other theaters.

In contrast, the book depicts Grant’s doing what a Union general was supposed to do: aggressively taking the fight to the enemy, winning the Mississippi Valley and the East, and saving the critical union army in the Middle Theater (which set the stage for Sherman’s 1864-65 successes). Perseverance, deception, alacrity, and appropriate aggressiveness were the hallmarks of Grant, the Civil War’s greatest general.

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3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

This book is unique in constantly describing the inter-theater relationships and interplays between Grant and Lee's campaigns even before they fought head-to-head in 1864 and 1865. It details Lee's draining of the rest of the Confederacy to replace his intolerable losses, his resistance to sending needed reinforcements to other theaters, his undercutting the effectiveness of the one inter-theater movement forced upon him, and his role in facilitating Sherman's critical capture of Atlanta. Grant was the beneficiary of Lee's mistakes.

Lee started at the top as a four-star Confederate general and Grant had difficulty obtaining a colonel's commission in the Union army. But while Lee engaged in a counter-productive bloodbath in the East, Grant rose step-by-step and victory after victory to command of all Union forces, was a victor in three theaters of the war, and defeated Lee. This book explores why Grant won and Lee lost the Civil War.

The list price of this book is \$49.95. However, signed, personalized copies of it may be obtained directly from Ed Bonekemper for \$37.00 each (plus \$3 shipping).

Other books by Ed Bonekemper are available (also signed and personalized) for the following list or discount prices (plus \$3 shipping):

How Robert E. Lee Lost the Civil War
Hardcover: \$29.95; Softcover: \$18.95

A Victor, Not a Butcher: Ulysses S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius Hardcover: \$27.95

McClellan and Failure: A Study of Civil War Fear, Incompetence and Worse Hardcover: \$35.00--discounted to \$27.00.

Please just send Ed Bonekemper an appropriate check or your questions if interested

Edward (Ed) H. Bonekemper, III
Civil War & Military History Author & Speaker
814 Willow Valley Lakes Drive
Willow Street, PA 17584
Phone: 717-464-4936 (home & fax)
Cell: 703-403-9345 (cell)
Email: ebonekemper@comcast.net

Get Serious about Preservation!

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

February 2008
Volume 57, Number 6

Lincoln: Contending for the Conservative High Ground

Unionists and Confederates alike claimed to be faithfully adhering to the ideals promulgated by the Founding Fathers to justify their actions before and during the Civil War. Conversely, each side accused the other of radically altering the precepts of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to suit their own political agenda. Bart Friedman will

examine the rhetoric and philosophy of Abraham Lincoln presented in his speeches at the Cooper Institute and his First Inaugural Address to show how Lincoln argued that it was those who were determined to preserve the Union who were the true conservatives by preserving of the intent of the Founding Fathers.

February 2008 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 **Place:** Officers' Club
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, DC

Price: Dinner \$29.00 per person
Lecture only \$5.00

Agenda: 6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar
6.45 pm Dinner: Chicken Florentine
Rice Pilaf
Vegetable of the Day (Vegetarian meals are available
Pecan Pie upon request in advance.)
8:00 pm Speaker: Barton R. Friedman
Topic: Lincoln: Contending for the Conservative High Ground

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, February 11, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
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Newsletter by Email

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Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

By Gordon Berg

No American city endured the hard hand of war longer than did Petersburg, VA. Besieged by Lieutenant General Ulysses Simpson Grant and more than 100,000 men of the Army of the Potomac for 296 days, Petersburg and its environs was the site of six major battles, and numerous assaults and skirmishes. It will also be the destination of our 2008 field trip on June 28-29. Logistics and costs are still being worked out but I can give you an outline of the "The Last Citadel" tour as put together by Ed Bearss, Susan Claffey, and Jim Hurdle.

The Petersburg National Battlefield Park includes historic sites at City Point, VA, a small port town at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers. We will stop here because it was the Union army's logistical hub and main supply center during the siege and one of the busiest ports in the world. It also served as the headquarters of General Grant from June 1864 to April 1865. Grant established his headquarters about eight miles behind the siege lines in a tent on the east lawn of Dr. Richard Eppes' plantation, known as Appomattox.

Petersburg itself is steeped in Civil War history and historic sites, to many for us to visit in just two days. So Ed, Susan, and Jim pooled their collective knowledge to select locations that are representative of the many actions that took place there. One of the best known locations is The Crater, site of one of the most tragic events of the entire war. In an attempt to break the stalemate, Pennsylvania miners dug a 500-foot tunnel beneath Confederate trenches, packed it with four tons of black powder, and on July 30, 1864, blasted a crater 170 feet long and 30 feet deep at Elliotts Salient. The Union troops, including a brigade of black soldiers, were poorly lead and no breakthrough occurred. Union casualties numbered more than 4,000 with 500 more captured. Grant called it "the saddest affair I have witnessed in this war."

We are also planning to visit Fort Stedman. In a last-gasp offensive, Gen. Robert E. Lee amassed nearly half of his army in an attempt to break through Grant's Petersburg defenses and threaten his supply depot at City Point. Directed by Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon, the pre-dawn assault on March 25, 1865 overpowered the garrisons of Fort Stedman and Batteries X, XI, and XII. However, the Confederates were soon brought under a killing crossfire, and Union counterattacks contained the breakthrough, cut off and captured more than 1,900 of the attackers.

The battles of Five Forks and Sutherland Station on April 1 and 2, 1865, respectively, signaled the end of the siege. While Union cavalry under Major General Phillip Sheridan pinned the Confederate force in position, the V Corps under Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren attacked and overwhelmed the Confederate left flank, taking many prisoners. Sheridan personally directed the attack, which extended Lee's Petersburg lines to the breaking point. Loss of Five Forks threatened Lee's last supply line, the South Side Railroad. The next day, Union forces under Brigadier General Nelson A. Miles struck north from White Oak Road meeting elements of four Confederate brigades attempting to defend the South Side Railroad. Overrun by three Union brigades, the Confederate defenders scattered to the northwest. With this victory, the Federals possessed the South Side Railroad, cutting General Lee's last supply line into Petersburg.

Petersburg is also the home of Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier that focuses on the daily lives of Civil War soldiers. The Siege Museum interprets the affects of the siege on the citizens of Petersburg.

If you want to do some background reading before setting off with Ed, there are two good books on the siege of Petersburg; **The Last Citadel: Petersburg Virginia June 1864 --**

April 1865 by Noah Andre Trudeau and **Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War** by A. Wilson Greene.

As details become available, I'll make sure they get out to all Round Table members. We are indeed fortunate to have Ed lead our yearly field trips; he is a national treasure and generously shares a lifetime of knowledge with anyone willing to listen and with the stamina to keep up with him in the field. Reserve June 28-29 for a rendezvous in Petersburg.

Are We Up To The Challenge?

Status Report On Our Effort To Be
A CWPT Regimental Color Bearer

We have raised \$800 in donations but we are \$200 short of our goal of the \$1000 needed to have our Round Table join the ranks of the Civil War Preservation Trust's Regimental Color Bearers. Will you help?

In the U.S. Government's War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, there are 387 distinct references to "color bearers," the men who were chosen for the honor of carrying those flags. Placed at the center of each regiment when formed in line of battle, the color bearer became the guide star for each unit. When the colors faltered, retreated or fell, men became demoralized, and movements became disorganized. However, when the colors advanced, ordinary men were inspired to achieve heroic deeds. In many of the hottest battles, soldiers knew that it meant certain death to pick up the fallen colors and carry them forward. Yet, there were always those courageous few who accepted the challenge.

The Civil War Preservation Trust exists to identify and preserve, for all time, the battlefields of our American Civil War so that all Americans now and in the future, may continue to learn of the sacrifices made to secure democracy and individual freedoms. Unfortunately, these sacred battlefields are

rapidly disappearing under the relentless wave of urban sprawl.

To stem this tide of destruction, the Civil War Preservation Trust has issued an urgent call for volunteers to join a prominent league of supporters: The Color Bearers. We would like our Round Table to be recognized as a supporter of these preservation efforts. Civil War Preservation Trust Color Bearers will be honored for the extraordinary commitment they bring to the mission of saving our nation's most hallowed ground.

Regimental Color Bearer \$1,000.
Regimental Color Bearers will also receive special recognition in printed materials put out by the CWPT.

25 Years Ago

On February 8, 1983, A. Kendall Royston, Jr., spoke to the Round Table about "Mosby's Rangers: Aristocratic Partisans." Mr. Royston was a member of the Board of Directors of the Northern Virginia Association of Historians.

50 Years Ago

Rear Admiral E. M. Eller, Director of Naval History, spoke to the Round Table on February 11, 1958, about "The Confederate Navy and the Beginning of Modern Naval Warfare."

Barton R. Friedman

Barton R. Friedman is a retired English professor with a lifelong interest in the Civil War. His great grandfather rode with "Buford's Boys" as a member of the 9th New York Cavalry. Bart treasures a photo that shows his ancestor at the dedication of the 9th New York monument at Gettysburg in 1883.

Battle of Franklin

By Susan Claffey

“(Franklin) is the blackest page in the history of the War of the Lost Cause. It was the bloodiest battle of modern times in any war. It was the finishing stroke to the Independence of the Southern Confederacy. I was there. I saw it.”

Sam Watkins, 1st Tennessee Infantry

The Battle of Franklin, November 30, 1864, has been called “the bloodiest hours of the American Civil War” and “The Gettysburg of the West.” It is distinguished as one of the few night battles in the War and as one of its smallest battlefields (2 miles long by 1 1/2 miles wide).

The little town of Franklin had been a Union military post since Nashville fell in early 1862. By late summer of 1864, Jefferson Davis replaced Joseph Johnston with John Bell Hood as commander of the Army of Tennessee. By this time, Lt. Gen. Hood had lost the use of an arm at Gettysburg and had a leg amputated at Chickamauga. Hood formulated his “Tennessee Campaign of 1864” with its main objective being to drive Sherman from Atlanta and draw Grant away from Lee’s forces in Petersburg. Under Hood’s command, the Army of Tennessee moved up through Georgia, Alabama and crossed the Tennessee River into middle Tennessee.

The day of the battle was reported as a beautiful Indian summer day. At dawn, the Confederates marched north from Spring Hill, TN in pursuit of the Union force that had somehow slipped past them during the night. Hood was angry about their escape and determined to destroy Maj. Gen. John Schofield’s Army of the Ohio before it reached Nashville and the Army of the Cumberland commanded by Maj. Gen. George Thomas. That combined force would be over 60,000 men, almost twice the size of Hood’s army. The armies that met at Franklin however were pretty

evenly matched - Hood’s 38,000 men to Schofield’s 32,000.

The Federals had arrived in Franklin before dawn. Schofield’s decision to defend here with his back to the Harpeth River was because the bridges were destroyed and he lacked the pontoons for a crossing. He needed time to repair the permanent bridges and calculated that the earthworks were capable of deflecting Hood’s inevitable assault. Union line commander, Brig. Gen. Jacob Cox, woke the Carter family to commandeer their house as his headquarters. In 1864, the Carter Farm consisted of 288 acres on the south edge of town straddling the Columbia Pike. Cox placed his army in a defensive position stretching from the northwest to southeast and centered at the Carter property. He used existing breastworks built in 1863 and constructed others on the west side of Columbia Pike. About 60 feet from the Carter House, near their farm office, smokehouse and cotton gin were the inner breastworks. A forward line was entrenched nearly a half mile ahead of the Carter House astride the Pike. By noon they were dug in.

Hood arrived at approximately 1:00 p.m. and by 2:00 p.m. he had plans for a frontal assault. In a conference around 2:30 p.m. at the Harrison House, all of Hood’s commanders—Frank Cheatham, Patrick Cleburne and Nathan Bedford Forrest voiced fierce opposition to the plans. Yet Hood could not be dissuaded. As Cleburne mounted his horse to leave, Hood gave strict orders for the assault. Cleburne replied, “We will take the works or fall in the attempt.” He would be good to his word. The Army of Tennessee knew the assault was suicidal but around 4:00 p.m. they stepped out bravely and advanced toward the Carter House.

Hood’s first attack ran over the Union’s forward brigades which broke and fled back to the main breastworks. Blue and Gray troops were intermingled so the Union soldiers on the main line were reluctant to fire resulting in a weak spot in their line at the Carter House.

Confederate forces broke through here and the fighting soon became brutal and savage. Men were bayoneted and clubbed to death in the Carter yard and a Confederate soldier was bayoneted on the house's front steps.

With the battle swirling around them, the Carter Family hid in their basement with 23 men, women and children. The head of the family had three sons fighting for the Confederacy. One son, Tod, was on the battlefield. On seeing his home for the first time in three years, he cried, "Follow me boys, I'm almost home." Capt. Tod Carter was mortally wounded and died two days later in the Carter House where he was born, home at last.

Eventually, the Federal troops plugged the gap. The Confederates continued efforts to break the Union line and launched assaults at many points along it. None of these attempts met with success and by 9:00 p.m. the fighting had subsided. The overall attack was described as a tidal wave, and is known as the "Pickett's Charge of the West." In reality, it was larger than the charge at Gettysburg. At Gettysburg, 12,500 Confederates crossed a mile of open ground in a single assault lasting about 50 minutes. In Franklin, some 19,000 marched into the guns across nearly two miles, and conducted multiple assaults in waves that lasted five hours. Schofield ordered an overnight withdrawal to Nashville, starting at 11:00 p.m. Although there was a period in which the Union army was vulnerable, straddling the river, Hood was too stunned to take advantage of it. Schofield reached the earthworks of Nashville on December 1. The Battle of Franklin was over.

Also caught in the vortex of destruction was Carnton Plantation, home to John and Carrie McGavock and their two children. Prior to the first assault, Confederates swarmed past either side of the mansion to form up in the fields behind their house. The plantation was designated a field hospital and hundreds of wounded and dying Confederate soldiers were brought to Carnton. Soldiers were laid on the

family's beds. When all the beds were full, soldiers were laid on the floors. When the house and outbuildings were full, the wounded were placed on the lawn. The McGavocks helped tend to the wounded. Several hundred eventually came to Carnton and 150 died that first night and it would be six months before the last would leave. Bloodstains are visible in several rooms to this day. In one room, you can see where a surgeon was standing in a pool of blood at the operating table. The bodies of Confederate Generals Cleburne, Granbury, Strahl, and Adams were brought to Carnton and laid out on its rear porch awaiting removal to their final burial places. Yes, Carnton is full of the ghosts of Franklin.

After the battle, most of the 1,750 Confederate dead were buried on the battlefield in graves marked by wooden headboards inscribed with the soldier's name, company, and regiment. The 189 Union dead were buried in their trenches and removed after the war to the military cemetery at Murfreesboro. But the Confederate graves were left and over the months the writing on the markers faded and the markers themselves began to disappear. The local farmers desperately needed to return the battlefield to agricultural use so John McGavock designated two acres at Carnton for a more secluded and protected resting place. He, as well as other concerned Franklin citizens, raised the money to have the bodies disinterred and reburied in the spring of 1866. The inscriptions from the remaining grave markers were carefully preserved by Carrie McGavock in the Cemetery Record Book. John and Carrie McGavock cared for the McGavock Confederate Cemetery for the rest of their lives.

Quick Quiz

What was the name of the animal which was officially designated in orders as "second commanding officer" of a famous US Regular Army regiment? The answer will be next month's newsletter. This is from our February 1983 newsletter.

**Ninth Annual Civil War Seminar
Jefferson Davis And Abraham Lincoln
Saturday, March 1, 2008**

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and the Department of History and Political Science at Longwood University are pleased to present the Ninth Annual Civil War Seminar, Saturday, March 1, 2008. This year's seminar will focus on "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln." The program begins at 9:30 a.m. on the campus of Longwood University in the Hull Building, room 132, in Farmville, VA. The seminar is free and open to the public. Lunch is available at the Longwood University dining hall. No registration is necessary. The following is a list of times, speakers, and topics:

- 9:00 a.m. Doors open
- 9:20 a.m. Introduction by Dr. David Coles, History Professor, Longwood University
- 9:30 a.m. Waite Rawls III—"Jeff Davis and the White House of the Confederacy."

- 10:30 a.m. Dan Storck as "Abraham Lincoln."
- 11:30 a.m. Robert Bosler—"Jeff Davis and the Secret History of the Confederacy."
- 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. Lunch
- 1:45 p.m. NPS Ranger Eric Martin—"The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln at Ford's Theater. "
- 2:45 p.m. Don Collins—"The Resurrection and Death of Jefferson Davis"
- 3:45 p.m. Questions and Answer Session

Signs will be posted on the Longwood University Campus. For directions to the campus go to <http://www.longwood.edu>. For more information contact Dr. David Coles at 434-395-2220 or Patrick Schroeder at 434-352-8987, Ext. 32.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, February 11, 2008.
The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member's Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____
(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____
(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Lincoln Group of DC Annual Banquet - Abraham Lincoln in 3-D

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 9th, at the Fort McNair Officers' Club.

Time is running out! Open to all! If you haven't already, we ask all members, friends, and members of the public to join us for this very special event celebrating the 199th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and marking the start of an exciting bicentennial year commemorating the birth of our 16th President.

Featured speakers are John Richter and Bob Zeller, author of *The Civil War in Depth*, Volumes One and Two, the groundbreaking stereoscopic photo histories of the Civil War. Zeller is a founder and president of The Center for Civil War Photography, Inc., a non-profit

organization dedicated to the study, presentation, and preservation of all aspects of Civil War photography.

Along with recent findings of photographs of Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, Richter and Zeller will present a unique and compelling look at the photographic history of the Civil War, featuring 3-D photographs from his collections.

Please contact Susan Dennis as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out on what promises to be an unforgettable program.

Susan Dennis
Editor
The Smithsonian Associates
Civil War E-Mail Newsletter
703-532-6188
dennisu@si.edu

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

March 2008
Volume 57, Number 7

Contested Borderland

The Appalachian Highlands of eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia is a terrible country in which to wage war. Yet, into its shallow creeks and steep-walled hollows came armies blue and gray, intent on controlling the region's important natural resources and its few, but strategically located, passages through

its forbidding terrain. Brian McKnight will escort us through this remote environment and reveal how the hard hand of war forever altered the lives of the men who fought there and spawned generations of social chaos for the tough, independent people who somehow eked out an existence in this rough, cruel country.

March 2008 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008

Place: Officers' Club
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, DC

Price: Dinner \$29.00 per person
Lecture only \$5.00

Agenda: 6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar
6:45 pm Dinner: Mahi-Mahi
Rice Pilaf
Vegetable of the Day (Vegetarian meals are available
Chocolate Ice Cream upon request in advance.)
8:00 pm Speaker: Brian McKnight
Topic: Contested Borderland

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 10, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests
are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2

Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

President: Gordon Berg
Home: 301-509-9469
Email: gordonberg@yahoo.com

Vice President: Thomas R. Devaney
Home: 703-385-6546
Office: 202-413-7200
Email: trdevaney48@msn.com

Board Member: Twyla Jackino
Home: 571-434-3819
Office: 202-628-1776 x446
Email: tjackino@comcast.net

Past President: Wendy Swanson
Home: 703-536-5464
Office: 703-605-7123
Email: wendy.swanson@ssa.gov

Board Member: Dalton L. Truluck
Home: 703-780-3874
Email: trusearch@aol.com

Board Member: James Hurdle
Home: 703-525-3681
Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

Treasurer: John W. Restall
Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

Membership in the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is open to anyone interested in the study of the American Civil War or American history. Our program year runs from September through June of the following year. Dues are \$30.00 per year (\$15 if you join after January 31, 2008) and should be mailed with a membership application form (available on our web site or from the address below) to:

CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

By Gordon Berg

A recent e-mail from Susan Claffey, whose article about the battlefield at Franklin in the last newsletter I thoroughly enjoyed, reminded me yet again that this area abounds with important Civil War sites "off the beaten path."

Susan has alerted us to the opening to the public of the Lincoln Cottage on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in upper northwest Washington. A sort of 19th century Camp David, the cottage, actually a 36 room house originally build for a prominent Washington banker, became a country haven where the Lincoln family could escape the unhealthy summer miasmas that invaded the city in the summer months. The death of Willie Lincoln in 1862 made the cottage a refuge for Mary Todd Lincoln and, it is said, the scene of a séance where she attempted to reconnect with her darling son. While kidnapping the president was still an option for John Wilkes Booth, he planned his abduction to take place somewhere along Lincoln's daily commuting route.

If there's enough interest among the membership, I am confident that Susan could arrange for a Saturday morning "in depth" tour of the cottage, perhaps even at a reduced rate. The grounds of the old Soldier's Home is also the site of a national cemetery holding numerous Civil War dead. It is said that Lincoln, although he commuted to the White House almost daily, could easily have heard the digging of more than 30 graves per day.

Speaking of national cemeteries, those of you intrepid enough to invade Washington are only a short distance from the most exclusive and unique of the nation's 128 national cemeteries -- Battleground National Cemetery. I grew up within bike riding distance of Battleground and would enjoy sharing my ephemera of information about why this wonderful one acre sanctuary of hallowed

ground is different from any national cemetery you could ever visit.

And now that you've come this far, why not visit the remnants of the three Civil War forts that fought Jubal Early in July 1864? You may be familiar with Fort Stevens, the scene of most of the action, but, hidden away deep in Rock Creek Park is a piece of Fort DeRussey, and, hardly noticeable to any but the keenest observer, is a badly worn outer gun position of Fort Slocum, the fort that let fly the first artillery round against Old Jube. Again, if there is sufficient interest, we will try and cajole Ben Cooling, the acknowledged expert on the defenses of Washington, to lead us on this voyage of discovery

You don't have to leave the Old Dominion to visit Freedom House Museum which has just opened in Alexandria. For about 12 years, this unremarkable townhouse on Duke Street was the headquarters of Franklin and Armfield, purveyors of African American human beings. The building served as a holding pen for slaves destined for the Deep South. The exhibits are primarily first person accounts augmented by a variety of items all designed to show that trafficking in human beings was a wildly profitable enterprise.

Finally, if you haven't visited the African American Civil War Memorial in the historic U Street NW area of the city, I urge you to discover this important Civil War location. I believe strongly that the role played United States Colored Troops regiments in helping to preserve the Union continues to be an aspect of Civil War Studies needing more and better study. The museum book store is a treasure trove of information and speaking of treasures, if you miss the chance of having lunch at Ben's Chili Bowl while in the neighborhood, you will be missing the chance to visit a true Washington institution.

I'll ask Susan to report on what's she's found out about the Lincoln cottage at the March

meeting. Please come and hear Brian McKnight talked about the war on the contested borderlands of eastern Kentucky and southwestern Virginia. It was a very different kind of war fought in a unique geographical environment.

Book Review by Gordon Berg

Blood, Tears, and Glory: How Ohioans Won the Civil War

James Bissland

Orange Frazer Press, 2007, 538 pp., \$34.95

Three hundred thousand Ohio men, one in every 10 citizens of the Buckeye State, fought in the Civil War. Thirty five thousand of them would die. Some native sons, like Edwin M. Stanton, William T. Sherman, and Phillip H. Sheridan, became household names. Four Ohio soldiers, Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, and William McKinley, would become president. But the exploits of others, like infantrymen Thomas F. Galwey, whose regiment, the 8th Ohio, was shot to pieces at Fredericksburg, and cavalrymen like Colonel Ralph Buckland whose riders made early contact with Confederate advance units at Shiloh, have become lost in the mists of history.

James Bissland, a New Englander transplanted to Ohio, believes these men and thousands of others, have stories to tell, stories that put a human face on four years of fighting, fatigue, disease, heroism, and death. He has resurrected them from moldering, mildewed diaries, faded words on the yellowing pages of long neglected letters, and family histories passed down orally from generation to generation and put them together in **Blood, Tears, and Glory** a big, swaggering, broad shouldered account of the Civil War with a special emphasis on the role Ohioans played in the struggle. Typical is an excerpt from a letter written by Champaign County farm laborer Private Joseph Diltz of the 66th Ohio to his father-in-law after the battle of Antietam. “We don’t mind the sight of dead men no more than

if they wair dead hogs,” Diltz wrote. “Why thair at Antietam the rebels was laying over the field bloated up as big as a horse and black as a negro...”

In spite of the flamboyant and self-serving subtitle, this is a serious historical study, for the most part engagingly written, with a significant amount of detailed research supporting it. Bissland himself is a born story teller and when his prose doesn’t turn purple, he recounts many fascinating and intimate stories of how Ohioans fared in the war and the part they played in events big and small during those fateful years.

Bissland admits to having two agendas in writing this book. The first is to correct a perceived Eastern bias in Civil War historiography and give the Western theater of operations its fair share of the glory for winning the war. The second is to wrest from the South its hegemony in storytelling about the war. He quotes Southern novelist Allan Gurganus who proudly admits “True, we lost once, big time. But our concession prize? The stories.” In balancing the scales of history, Bissland gives us stories of young men like 19-year old Liberty Warner, the sheltered son of a Methodist minister who joined the 21st Ohio, was wounded at Stones River, and died on Horseshoe Ridge near the end of the battle of Chickamauga. His remains were never found.

While the men were off fighting, Ohio women contributed to the war effort behind the lines. We meet Mary Ann Bickerdyke who “descended on the Union army, shaking things up in a way that would make her a legend.” Mother Bickerdyke accepted her church’s mission to take food and other supplies to sick soldiers at the Union military hospital in Cairo, IL. Finding the conditions deplorable, she set about to make things right. After the fall of Fort Donelson, she made five trips on hospital steamers bringing back the Union wounded. Then she could be found on the bloodiest killing fields of the West -- Shiloh, Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain, and the

campaign for Atlanta. She nursed prisoners released from Andersonville. Bissland includes a story, possibly apocryphal, that she regularly addressed General Sherman as Bill and when he was asked how she could run roughshod over army regulations, he replied “She ranks me.”

With such a rich and diversified heritage to chronicle, some stories have either eluded or necessarily been edited from Bissland’s catalogue. Sadly, he omits the pivotal role played by Company K, 150th Ohio Infantry, a company of 100-day volunteers composed of students from Oberlin College, who manned the artillery batteries and rifle pits in front of Fort Stevens on July 11, 1864, the first day of the only Civil War battle fought within the boundaries of Washington, DC. The Oberlin boys saw President Abraham Lincoln come under enemy fire from Confederate General Jubal Early’s sharpshooters, and one young Ohioan, 20-year old William Leach, gave his life in defense of his Nation’s Capital.

Occasionally, Bissland’s enthusiasm leads him down the path of cliché. Describing the early settlers of the territory, he calls them “worker bees” who transformed “a howling wilderness” into, you guessed it, “a land of milk

and honey.” In the chapter on the battle of Bull Run, we find the guileless civilian spectators skylarking in the heat and dust of a Virginia summer “And the dust settled on them like a shroud.” On the soldiers, “A merciless sun beat down” and the wounded, propped against trees, “their lives draining out of them.”

Clearly, this richly illustrated book is intended to attract younger readers who may not be familiar with their state’s contribution to the war effort. But experienced historians, researchers, and genealogists looking for illustrative anecdotes and vignettes with an Ohio pedigree to spice up their analytical monographs will be well served by Bissland’s exhaustive researches. There’s enough blood, tears, and glory within its covers to satisfy even the most veteran Civil War campaigners.

50 Years Ago

Virgil C. “Pat” Jones spoke to the Round Table on March 11, 1958, about his latest book **Eight Hours Before Richmond**. This was the story of the celebrated Kilpatrick-Dahlgren raid on March 1, 1864.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 10, 2008.

The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member’s Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest’s Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____ (Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____ (Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

25 Years Ago

On March 8, 1983, John Devine spoke to the Round Table about the Prelude to Gettysburg, the movement of the Army of Northern Virginia toward Pennsylvania, using the Blue Ridge Mountains as a screen, and subsequent cavalry clashes between Stuart and Pleasonton.

Quick Quiz Answer

What was the name of the animal which was officially designated in orders as “second commanding officer” of a famous US Regular Army regiment?

“Comanche”, Lt. Keogh’s horse, was the only survivor of the Custer massacre at Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876. Badly wounded, he was nursed back to health by the men of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. He was designated “second commanding officer” of the that regiment and as long as he lived was led riderless in all its parades and reviews, saddled and with a black blanket as a sign of mourning.

Brian McKnight

Brian McKnight is an assistant professor of history at Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX. He got his PhD from Mississippi State University. **Contested Borderland** is his first book, and winner of the James I. Robertson Prize. He has written extensively on the Civil War and Reconstruction in the Appalachian Highlands and has in the works books on Champ Ferguson's Civil War and **Twisting Lincoln's Arm: East Tennessee and the Politics of Liberation, 1861-62**. He is a member of the Concho Valley CWRT.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Cooling to Speak at Monocacy

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Cooling will speak at the Monocacy National Battlefield Center at 1:00 PM on March 1, 2008, about the Confederate failure to redeem Maryland and capture Washington. Dr. Benjamin Franklin Cooling is the author of several books on the Civil War including **Monocacy: The Battle That Saved Washington** and **Jubal Early's Raid on Washington**. A book signing will follow his talk. The presentation is free.

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

April 2008
Volume 57, Number 8

J. E. B. Stuart at Gettysburg

He's not Ed but he is one of our own. Round Table member Warren Robinson has written a well-received new book about Jeb Stuart's performance during the Gettysburg campaign, a subject of controversy and debate almost from the time his fateful ride around the Army of the Potomac occurred in late June and early July 1863 down to the present day. Robinson has investigated Stuart's ride with fresh eyes and gives a balanced, fair-minded account of this highly contentious subject. He

reassesses the historical record and provides an insightful interpretation of Stuart's orders, his actual performance during those critical days, and the impact his late arrival had on the outcome of the campaign. We'll have to wait until September for Ed's unique insights but don't miss this opportunity to saddle up with Warren Robinson for a spirited discussion of the Confederacy's most famous horseman in perhaps his darkest hour.

April 2008 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Price: Dinner \$29.00 per person
Lecture only \$5.00
Agenda: 6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar
6:45 pm Dinner: Chicken Marsala (Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
Noodles
Vegetable of the Day
Cheesecake
8:00 pm Speaker: Warren Robinson
Topic: J. E. B. Stuart at Gettysburg

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.
The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 7, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2

Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

President: Gordon Berg
Home: 301-509-9469
Email: gordonberg@yahoo.com

Vice President: Thomas R. Devaney
Home: 703-385-6546
Office: 202-413-7200
Email: trdevaney48@msn.com

Board Member: Twyla Jackino
Home: 571-434-3819
Office: 202-628-1776 x446
Email: tjackino@comcast.net

Past President: Wendy Swanson
Home: 703-536-5464
Office: 703-605-7123
Email: wendy.swanson@ssa.gov

Board Member: Dalton L. Truluck
Home: 703-780-3874
Email: trusearch@aol.com

Board Member: James Hurdle
Home: 703-525-3681
Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

Treasurer: John W. Restall
Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

Membership in the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is open to anyone interested in the study of the American Civil War or American history. Our program year runs from September through June of the following year. Dues are \$30.00 per year (\$15 if you join after January 31, 2008) and should be mailed with a membership application form (available on our web site or from the address below) to:

CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

© March 2008 by Kenneth R. Rice

Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

By Gordon Berg

During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln and his family resided at what had once been the private estate of George W. Riggs, founder of Riggs National Bank. To escape the Washington heat, the First Family spent June to November of 1862, 1863 and 1864 at this large, airy house although the president commuted almost daily to his office in the White House to conduct government business and then he usually walked across the street to the War Department to follow the progress of the war.

The Federal Government had purchased the land on which the Cottage sits and 276 additional acres in 1851 for the foundation of a home to care for veterans, called the U.S. Military Asylum, soon to be known as Soldier's Home. Lincoln spent one-fourth of his presidency at Soldiers' Home, and it is believed that he wrote the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation there. In 1865, Lincoln's wife, Mary, wrote to her friend Elizabeth Blair Lee, "How dearly I loved the Soldiers' Home."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation oversaw the seven year, \$15 million restoration project which included creation of the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center in a building adjacent to the Cottage. The Round Table has reserved an exclusive one-hour tour for its members on April 26 at noon. I encourage all Round Table members to take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about the private life of the Lincoln family and its Camp David-like retreat.

The Cottage is easily accessed from Maryland and Northern Virginia, there is plenty of secure parking, and the Smith Center features related exhibits and media presentations about Lincoln and Washington DC life during the Civil War. This is a secure military installation, so make sure you bring a picture ID and try to arrive about 15 minutes before the tour starts.

For those interested in seeing more Civil War sites within the boundaries of the District of Columbia, please note that you are very close to the remnants of Forts Slocum, Stevens, and DeRussy -- the three forts that fired their guns in anger at Jubal Early and his Army of the Valley during the Confederacy's third and final invasion of the North on July 11-12, 1864. While Fort Stevens is the best preserved of the three, thanks to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, there is clear evidence of the other forts even though it is now out of sight in wooded areas. Also, the nation's most exclusive national cemetery, Battleground, is in the vicinity. I will have some informational materials on these sites available and will accompany those interested in visiting these "off the beaten path" locations.

On another subject, I must take responsibility for the SNAFU that prevented Ed Bearss from speaking to the Round Table in April. I sincerely apologize but hope that all of you who intended to attend the April meeting will come to hear another member, Warren Robinson, talk about Jeb Stuart and the Gettysburg campaign. I have read Warren's recent book and believe it to be a comprehensive, balanced, investigation into what has become over the years, a most contentious subject. Warren will contribute a copy of the book for the raffle and bring others to sell. Hope to see you April 8.

Lincoln Cottage Tour

The Round Table has reserved Noon on Saturday, April 26 for its members to take a tour of the newly restored Lincoln Cottage on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, DC. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about this unique part of Washington's Civil War history. All Round Table participating members will receive the reduced rate of \$10 per ticket. Driving directions are as follows: From the I-495 Capital

Beltway and points north of Washington, D.C. Take the Georgia Avenue exit southbound. Follow Georgia Avenue (MD-97) south approximately 10 miles. Turn left on Upshur Street NW. Follow Upshur Street approximately 1 mile east. Upshur Street terminates at Eagle Gate. From I-395 and points south of Washington, D.C. Heading north on I-395, take the L'Enfant exit. Merge onto D Street. Turn left onto 7th Street SW. 7th Street becomes Georgia Avenue. From Georgia Avenue, turn right on Upshur Street. Upshur Street terminates at Eagle Gate.

Volunteers Needed To Clean Up America's Civil War Battlefields And Historic Sites

The Civil War began as a struggle between armies of untrained but enthusiastic volunteers. Seven generations later, another army of volunteers is about to descend on America's Civil War battlefields – only this horde of dedicated men and women will be armed with paint brushes, trash bags and weed whackers.

On Saturday, April 5, 2008, history buffs and preservationists of all ages will join forces to clean and restore Civil War-related battlefields, cemeteries and shrines. The nationwide effort – dubbed Park Day – is underwritten with a grant from The History Channel. Park Day is also recognized by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a “Take Pride in America” event. More than 110 historic sites in 24 states are expected to participate in Park Day 2008.

“Civil War sites are often the victims of their own popularity,” noted Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer. “Without proper maintenance, battlefields can suffer from the ravages of both time and tourism. Our goal is to spruce up these links to America's past so they can be enjoyed by all.”

Now in its twelfth year, Park Day is an annual hands-on preservation event created by CWPT. Volunteers gather at designated Civil War sites to help with routine repairs and maintenance. Activities can range from raking leaves and hauling trash to painting signs and trail building. In exchange for their hard work, participants receive T-shirts and can listen to local historians describe the significance of the site.

Among the sites that will be benefiting from Park Day activities this year are: Mansfield Battlefield in Louisiana, Antietam Battlefield in Maryland, Wilson's Creek Battlefield in Missouri, and the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia.

“These are the hallowed fields where our ancestors gave their lives. We cannot allow them to fall into disrepair,” remarked Lighthizer.

With 65,000 members, CWPT is the largest nonprofit battlefield preservation organization in the United States. Its goal is to preserve our nation's endangered Civil War sites and to promote appreciation of these hallowed grounds. For a list of the participating Park Day sites, visit <http://www.civilwar.org/parkday/>.

50 Years Ago

Wilber Brucher, Secretary of the Army, spoke to the Round Table on April 8, 1958. His topic was the advancements and innovations made in arms during the Civil War. Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant III received the Round Table's Gold Medal Award at this meeting.

25 Years Ago

On April 12, 1983, Dr. Joseph Harsh spoke to the Round Table about our reasons for studying the Civil War, what it means to us, and why it fascinates us so.

**Upcoming Seminar
The Long Road To Richmond:
How Colossal Miscalculations and
Audacious Generals Lengthened the
Civil War**

The College of William and Mary,
Williamsburg, VA
April 20-25, 2008

Gain a detailed understanding of the battles and consequences of the crucial Civil War campaigns on the Virginia Peninsula in 1861-62. Lectures will be on Fort Monroe, the 1862 Yorktown Campaign, the Monitor and the Merrimack, and the Seven Days Campaign.

Tours will include Fort Monroe, the site of Big Bethel, Dam No. 1, Civil War entrenchments at Yorktown, the incredible new USS Monitor Center at the Mariners Museum, portions of the battlefield of Williamsburg, and National Park Service guided tours of Gaines's Mill and Malvern Hill, as well as a special trip to Berkeley Plantation, where "Taps" was composed.

Witness the war's impact on towns caught in the middle, women left behind, and slaves hungry for freedom. Investigate how events on a narrow Virginia peninsula tremendously impacted the politics, strategies, and even the length of the Civil War.

Tuition: \$695 per person, double occupancy. Tuition includes all meals (5 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners), accommodations, and entrance fees. Commuter rate \$395 (does not include breakfasts or lodging). Single room supplement \$160.

For additional information or to register for this week long program, call the William and Mary Elderhostel Office directly at 757-221-3649 or email elderh@wm.edu.

Please note that this program is sponsored solely by William and Mary and is not an Elderhostel program. Adults of all ages are welcome.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, April 8, 2008.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, April 7, 2008.
The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member's Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____
(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____
(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Weekend Tour - June 28 & 29, 2008
“The Last Citadel”
The Siege Of Petersburg
 With Ed Bearss

Join the incomparable Civil War historian, Ed Bearss, for the Siege of Petersburg. Ed will lead a walk of the Battery 5 area, the strongest fortification on the original Confederate Dimmock Line. Additional stops during the first day include Fort Stedman, where a pitched battle was fought in March 1865 in Lee’s final attempt to relieve the long siege; historic Old Blandford Church and cemetery; and The Crater, scene of the terrible mine explosion in July 1864. On day two, the tour will visit Five Forks, the Confederate loss here broke Lee’s last supply line and led to his retreat; Pamplin Historic Park where the Union broke through the Confederate defense line; and City Point—Grant’s headquarters and supply depot.

Grant’s Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864 culminated in an initially unsuccessful assault on Petersburg, Virginia, June 15-18, 1864. The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign was a series of battles fought around Petersburg until March 25, 1865 and is more popularly known as

the Siege of Petersburg. It was not a classic military siege, in which a city is usually fully surrounded and all supply lines are cut off. It was ten months of trench warfare in which Union forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assaulted the city unsuccessfully and then constructed trench lines that eventually extended over 30 miles around the eastern and southern outskirts of Petersburg.

What Is Included:

Expert Tour Leader.
 Hotel accommodations for one (1) night.
 Meals, as indicated on the itinerary below.
 Admissions, service charges and gratuities.
 All on-tour transportation. Motor coach to and around battlefields Saturday and Sunday, to hotel and dinner Saturday evening and return to starting location on Sunday.
 Map packet.
 Snacks and refreshments on bus.

What Is Not included:

Personal items such as wines, liquors, a-la-carte orders, meals other than specified on itinerary, in-hotel movies.
 Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

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There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let’s help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

Tour Cost and Registration Information

- **Tour cost for members of the CWRT of DC and their significant others is \$300 per person single occupancy and \$250 per person double occupancy. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate. (To be considered for the member price, you must appear on the membership roster of the CWRT of DC as of January 31, 2008.)**
- **Tour cost for non-members of the CWRT-DC is \$350 per person single occupancy and \$300 per person double occupancy and cost includes one-year membership in the CWRT-DC. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate.**
- Deposits are applied to payment of the tour price.
- Space is reserved in the order of receipt of reservation request. To submit a request for a reservation, please submit the completed Registration Request, the signed and dated Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer (both below) and deposit or payment in full.
- Submitting this Reservation Request does not guarantee you a space on this tour. You will be notified of your status when your request has been received and processed. If there is no space available, you will automatically be placed on a waiting list, notified of your status, and any payment included with this Reservation Request will be refunded.
- The tour is designed for adults but may be suitable for children 14 years or age or older, with the necessary curiosity and interest. Regardless of age, children must pay full price and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Deposit or payment in full required to complete your registration request:

- Deposit of \$150 per person or payment in full due with this Registration Request. Please note: if making deposit, balance is due 30 days prior to the tour. You will not be invoiced. If the balance is not received 30 days prior to departure, your place cannot be guaranteed. Full payment is due if registering within 15 days of the date of departure, please call 202-306-4988 to confirm availability.

Cancellations and Refunds

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO OUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS POLICY.

- Cancellation within 30 days of departure: \$50.00 retained; remainder refunded
- Cancellation within 15 days of departure: \$125 retained; remainder refunded.
- Cancellation within 7 days of departure: no refund.
- Cancellation by the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia: full refund.
- No refund for unused portions of this tour, including but not limited to missed meals, hotel nights.
- Refunds will be processed within 45 days of cancellation.

You may cancel your participation in the tour 2 ways: Phone: 202-306-4988 prior to June 27, 2008 or by Email: cwrt_dc@comcast.net prior to June 26, 2008.

For more information, please see the our web site at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwtrdc.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I find up to date information about the tour? You may call 202-306-4988, email cwrt_dc@comcast.net or check the CWRT-DC website at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm> for up-to-date tour information. If you have any concerns about weather, we suggest you call 202-306-4988 prior to departing from home.

How can I order a meal that fits my dietary needs (food allergies/vegetarian)? Persons with special dietary requirements should **complete the section provided on the Registration Request for these special requirements. You will** be notified if your request cannot be met.

Does the tour operate rain or shine? Yes, the tour operates rain or shine. However, in the case of severe weather, the tour may be rescheduled, please call 202-306-4988 for last minute tour information prior to the tour.

How do I know if I meet the physical requirements for the tour? Participants should be in good physical condition as this tour involves daily walks. If you are doubtful of your physical abilities, please contact 202-306-4988 to discuss requirements for the tour.

What do I need to bring/wear on tour? Bring comfortable walking shoes and clothes suitable for the weather, hats, sunglasses, and be prepared for rain. Historically, for the Petersburg area in late June, the weather is humid with an average high temperature of 89°F and an average low of 66°F.

Is travel insurance provided? No, travel insurance is not provided.

Do you wait for everyone before the tour departs? Tour departs ON-TIME and does not wait for late arrivals.

How are seats determined on the bus? Seats on the bus are first-come/first-served but seats at or near the front of the bus may be reserved for those with special needs.

Important Tour Policies:

Signed Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer is required by all participants.

Smoking is not permitted on the bus. Our Cancellation and Refund Policy is strictly enforced.

Itinerary subject to minor changes as determined by the tour leader.

The tour bus will depart from Ft. McNair promptly at 8:00 am. Entrance to Ft. McNair is through the P Street gate. Please arrive by 7:30 am and be prepared for a delay getting through the gate and security when you arrive. You will be asked for a picture ID and your vehicle and bags are subject to search unless you have a current DOD sticker.

Suggested Reading:

Petersburg: Out of the Trenches by James W. Wensyel

The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign by A. Wilson Greene.

The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864-April 1865 by Noah Andre Trudeau

The Crater: Petersburg by John Cannan

Itinerary with Tour Leader, Ed Bearss

Itinerary is subject to minor change

Saturday; June 28, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. Depart Ft McNair Pool Parking (Arrive P Street Gate by 7:30 AM to allow for security check)
- 10:15 a.m. Petersburg National Battlefield Visitors Center (Admission included in registration price)
- Confederate Dimmock Line
- Confederate Battery 5
- The Dictator - huge Union mortar
- 11:15 a.m. Fort Stedman - Lee's Final Attempt to Break the Siege, Union Low Point
- Noon. Picnic Lunch at Visitors Center (included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour, depart for the Crater -The Battle of the Crater
- 2:15 p.m. Old Blanford Church & Cemetery
- 4:00 p.m. Rives' Salient - Wounding of Joshua Chamberlain
- 5:00 p.m. Weldon Railroad/Ream's Station/Globe Tavern - Confederate supply link
- 5:30 p.m. Depart for Dinner (included in registration price)
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated arrival by bus at hotel: Fairfield Inn, Chester VA, 804-778-7500

Sunday; June 29, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. Deluxe continental breakfast at hotel (included in registration price)
- 7:45 a.m. Depart hotel
- 8:00 a.m. White Oak Road - setting the stage for the end
Five Forks - anchor of the Confederate position
- Noon Lunch at Pamplin Historic Park (NOT included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour - Participants have choice of either:
Walking Tour of the Union Breakthrough with Ed Bearss
Self-Tour of Pamplin Park Museum of the Civil War Soldier
- 2:30 p.m. Depart Pamplin Park
- 3:00 p.m. City Point - Grant's Headquarters and Union supply depot
- 5:00 p.m. Leave for Ft. McNair
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated Arrival at Ft. McNair

REGISTRATION REQUEST AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

SIEGE OF PETERSBURG June 28 & 29 Registration Deadline: June 13, 2008

Maximum of One Registrant per Form. Please submit additional forms as required.

Name:

Check for double occupancy and indicate name of your roommate:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Hotel is NON-Smoking Room preference: King/Queen 2 Doubles (No guarantee but every effort will be made to meet request.)

Please specify any other special room, limited mobility or dietary requirements:

Tour Cost: \$ 300 PP for CWRT-DC members on roster as of 1/31/2008 & Significant Others
\$ 350 PP for non-CWRT-DC members (includes 1 year membership in the CWRT-DC)
Subtract \$50 from per person cost for double occupancy. You are responsible for finding a roommate. (See "Tour Cost and Registration Information.")

TOTAL Enclosed:

CANCELLATION POLICY: SEE "CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS".

Mail this completed and signed form with check payable to the CWRT of DC to: Jim Hurdle
1632 N. Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22207

If you are parking your vehicle at Ft. McNair, the following information is REQUIRED with registration.

Make:

Model:

License Plate #:

State of Issue:

Drivers License #:

State of Issue:

Owner's Name:

Owner's Telephone #:

READ CAREFULLY: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The undersigned agrees that:

1. I will not hold the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia ("CWRT"), its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or accident, delay or irregularity arising out of any act or omission of any entity supplying any goods or services in connection with this tour.
2. I will not hold the CWRT, its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or loss that I suffer in connection with this tour.
3. The CWRT may, without penalty or liability, make changes in the itinerary of this tour, withdraw the tour announced, decline to accept any person as a participant in this tour and require any participant to withdraw from this tour at any time whenever, in the judgment of its authorized agent, any of these actions are necessary.
4. My baggage and personal effects are at all times my sole responsibility.
5. Schedules, itinerary, and tour details, although provided in good faith based on information available, are subject to change and revision.
6. I have read this Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer, the itinerary for this tour, as well as the terms and conditions of application and participation as set forth in the tour information and this Registration Request, and recognize and accept any and all risks associated with this tour, and the conditions, including the Cancellations and Refunds Policy, set forth herein.
7. In consideration of, and as part payment for, the right to participate in this tour, I, on behalf of my dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, agree to release, hold harmless and indemnify the CWRT, its officers, board members and members from any and all liability for any loss, death, or injury to my person or property suffered in connection with this tour.

 Signature of Registrant /Tour Participant

 Date

If the registrant is under 21 years of age, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required. (Note that the minimum age is 14.)

 Parent or legal guardian (print name or names on line above)

 Signature

 Date

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

May 2008
Volume 57, Number 9

Civil War in the Desert Southwest

Between July 1861 and August 1862, in the high desert of New Mexico Territory along the upper reaches of the Rio Grande River, Americans fought each other in one of the least understood campaigns of the Civil War. Flint Whitlock takes us far off the beaten path, introduces us to a fascinating array of characters, and marches us through some of the

most exotic territory in the American southwest to tell a story that combines quixotic egoism, Manifest Destiny determination, and personal sacrifice and courage. Listen as distant bugles and distant drums beat out a sweeping narrative that is integral to understanding both the course of the Civil War and America's quest to become a continental nation.

May 2008 Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Place: Officers' Club
Fort Lesley J. McNair
Washington, DC

Price: Dinner \$29.00 per person
Lecture only \$5.00

Agenda: 6:00 pm Social Hour: Cash Bar
6:45 pm Dinner: Sirloin Tips (Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable of the Day
Chocolate Cake
8:00 pm Speaker: Flint Whitlock
Topic: Civil War in the Desert Southwest

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, May 12, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
If reserving a dinner by email, make
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2

Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

President: Gordon Berg
Home: 301-509-9469
Email: gordonberg@yahoo.com

Vice President: Thomas R. Devaney
Home: 703-385-6546
Office: 202-413-7200
Email: trdevaney48@msn.com

Board Member: Twyla Jackino
Home: 571-434-3819
Office: 202-628-1776 x446
Email: tjackino@comcast.net

Past President: Wendy Swanson
Home: 703-536-5464
Office: 703-605-7123
Email: wendy.swanson@ssa.gov

Board Member: Dalton L. Truluck
Home: 703-780-3874
Email: trusearch@aol.com

Board Member: James Hurdle
Home: 703-525-3681
Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

Treasurer: John W. Restall
Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

Membership in the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is open to anyone interested in the study of the American Civil War or American history. Our program year runs from September through June of the following year. Dues are \$30.00 per year (\$15 if you join after January 31, 2008) and should be mailed with a membership application form (available on our web site or from the address below) to:

CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

We have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

© May 2008 by Kenneth R. Rice

Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

President's Column

By Gordon Berg

The 2007-2008 program year is fast approaching its end and spring in the Washington area brings with it many enjoyable activity options for a membership with limited disposable hours to invest. I hope each of you can factor in the evenings of May 13 and June 10 to hear Flint Whitlock and Joe Balicki speak about the Union response to the Confederate invasion of New Mexico Territory and the information that can be gleaned from the archeological remains of Civil War encampments respectively.

In a way, these two speakers provide a symmetry to the topics covered by our speakers this year. Chandra Manning opened our season with a lively argument about what soldiers blue, gray, and black believed they were fighting for and against. Now Flint will take us to the farthest reaches of Civil War battlefields and Joe will help us understand what the soldiers left behind, hidden from inquiring eyes for more than 140 years.

Our final two speakers also exemplify part of the method in my madness of choosing speakers, a task I thoroughly enjoyed. I took as my mantra "off the beaten path," the words often used to describe our field trips with Ed. I tried to find speakers who would introduce us to new and perhaps unusual people, issues, and events. In that spirit, I inflicted upon you two English professors who helped us navigate the psyche of Ambrose Bierce and understand the rhetoric of Abraham Lincoln. I believe both topics to be acquired tastes and appreciate those of you who took the leap in the dark with me.

I also tried to make lemonade from the bitter lemon I created by mismanaging Ed Bearss' speaking date. I see more clearly now how great is the link between our members and the unique personality of this most singular of men. I am pleased, however, that my gaffe allowed one of our own, Warren Robinson, to share with you

his substantial knowledge about one of the war's more controversial events. I believe I share with our immediate past president, Wendy Swanson, a belief that there resides within our members a wellspring of talent and information to be shared. Even when a speaker must cancel at the last minute, we should never be bereft of a capable replacement from within our own ranks.

I regret that I have not been able to increase our membership during the past year. With about 66 members in the area, we are a small, but unique, round table in that we include a social hour and dinner as part of our monthly gatherings. I believe these activities add significantly to the conviviality that is so evident among those who attend the monthly meetings. I regret also that the number attending those meetings averages only about 28-30. These two realities puts a premium on managing our financial affairs -- ably handled by John Restall -- and our the profit making potential of our field trip. Susan Claffey's investment of energy and talent in these trips has ensured that they remain a highlight of our program year.

Next month I'll talk about what I hope the round table can accomplish in the years to come.

Officer Elections

It is once again time to elect the round Table officers and board members for the next. The nominations are:

President: Thomas R. Devaney
 Vice President: open
 Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
 Treasurer: John W. Restall
 Board Member: Twyla Jackino
 Board Member: Dalton L. Truluck
 Board Member: open

Nominations will be taken at the May meeting for the open positions. If anyone is interested in serving in one of these positions, please let Gordon Berg know.

The Civil War Comes to Sparta Living History Encampment

On Saturday, May 10, the members of the 33rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, in cooperation with the Sparta, New Jersey, Historical Society, will stage their annual living history event on the grounds of the historic Van Kirk/Mull House, located next to the Middle School on Route 517 in Sparta. A Civil War period encampment, with members of the 33rd portraying both soldiers and civilians of the era, will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will also feature scheduled drills, talks and demonstrations and an exhibit of original Civil War artifacts. The Van Kirk/Mull house will be open for visitors and local history authors will be available to sign copies of their work.

This event is free to the public. For further information contact Sergeant Phil Cocilovo (973-293-9849) or Private Robert Jones 973-398-3122) of the 33rd New Jersey Volunteer Infantry.

Book Review by John Restall

Stonewall Jackson

by Donald A. Davis

Palgrave MacMillian, 2007, [194 pages]

Writing about an individual shrouded in mystery, glorified in song and story, and known by a colorful nickname can be intimidating. This short book by Donald Davis presents a balanced presentation of the attributes that made Thomas J. Jackson both an outstanding independent field commander and also ultimately limited his influence on the Civil War's outcome.

Jackson's individualism was reinforced by a classical training and his two-year Confederate military career exhibited both strengths and weaknesses in his handling of the men under his

command. Jackson struggled at West Point, but eventually overcame his academic problems through hard work and dogged determination. It's not surprising, therefore, that he insisted both his VMI cadets and the Confederate soldiers under his command become proficient in their military skills through rigorous training. Jackson could ignore personal discomfort and danger and he insisted that his soldiers struggle through physical hardship and fight with determination.

Davis very properly points out both the positive and negative aspects of Jackson's personality. He admires Jackson's ability to evaluate terrain and anticipate the moves of his opponents when he had independent command in the Shenandoah Valley. Jackson also shined when Lee gave him risky assignments as at Second Manassas or Harpers Ferry. But Jackson was also a secretive person, who rarely shared his thinking with his subordinate commanders when planning an operation, and rarely questioned directives sent from Lee.

Davis persuasively argues that speed and a knowledge of the terrain made Jackson's force a potent buffer against Union forces for the first two years of the Civil War. He does not excuse Jackson's tardiness in attacking McClellan during the Seven Days battles, but uses this episode as an example of Jackson's inability to keep his subordinates informed and pushing his troops and himself too hard. Davis also encourages the reader to think about the long term conduct of the war where perseverance and support became more important than the first rush where bravery and audacity could carry the day.

25 Years Ago

On May 10, 1983, Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., spoke to the Round Table about "Virginia in the Confederacy."

50 Years Ago

On May 13, 1958, the Round Table held its meeting in the National Press Club Ballroom. Col. J. Gay Seabourne spoke to the assemblage about the Battle of Brandy Station, the single greatest cavalry action of the Civil War. Col. Seabourne was elected President of the Round table at that meeting. A few weeks afterward, on May 24, The Round Table had a field trip to the Brandy Station battlefield. On April 1st of that year, our membership exceeded 500 members.

**Be a Patron of Preservation
and Win a 7 Night Cruise for Two**

On Saturday, May 10, at the Daniel Technology Center, Culpeper, Virginia, the Friends of Wilderness Battlefield (FoWB) will host their 6th annual Dinner and Auction. Highlighting the live auction will be a SEVEN-DAY CRUISE FOR TWO to Mexico and the Caribbean aboard a Holland America Line ship.

The event will kick off at 6:30 p.m. with a Silent Auction accompanied by hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar featuring Barboursville wines and Blue and Gray Brewery beers. At 7:45 the

silent auction will close and guests will be seated for a delicious buffet-style dinner catered by Loudelia's.

Chief Justice Frank Williams of the Rhode Island Supreme Court and leading authority on Abraham Lincoln has teamed up with noted author and Civil War scholar, Gordon Rhea to present a stirring visual post-dinner program entitled "Ulysses S. Grant: Seen and Heard."

The evening's activities will round out at 9:15 with an electrifying and entertaining offering of highly prized Live Auction items. The auction is the major source of funding for the Ellwood Restoration Project and this year's Wilderness Evening promises to be the best ever. To purchase tickets for the evening or for the entire weekend, call or email Dale Brown at 540-972-9298 or DaleKBrown@verizon.net.

Make your reservations today, have a grand evening, go home with a treasure and best of all count yourself as part of the preservation team. For your convenience and the success of the Ellwood Restoration Project, we gratefully accept VISA and MC as well as personal checks.

Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, May 12, 2008.
The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member's Name: _____ Number of people: _____

Guest's Name(s): _____ Cost of dinners: \$_____

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$_____
(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____
(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled.)

Total enclosed: \$_____

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Weekend Tour - June 28 & 29, 2008
“The Last Citadel”
The Siege Of Petersburg
 With Ed Bearss

Join the incomparable Civil War historian, Ed Bearss, for the Siege of Petersburg. Ed will lead a walk of the Battery 5 area, the strongest fortification on the original Confederate Dimmock Line. Additional stops during the first day include Fort Stedman, where a pitched battle was fought in March 1865 in Lee’s final attempt to relieve the long siege; historic Old Blandford Church and cemetery; and The Crater, scene of the terrible mine explosion in July 1864. On day two, the tour will visit Five Forks, the Confederate loss here broke Lee’s last supply line and led to his retreat; Pamplin Historic Park where the Union broke through the Confederate defense line; and City Point—Grant’s headquarters and supply depot.

Grant’s Overland Campaign in the spring of 1864 culminated in an initially unsuccessful assault on Petersburg, Virginia, June 15-18, 1864. The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign was a series of battles fought around Petersburg until March 25, 1865 and is more popularly known as

the Siege of Petersburg. It was not a classic military siege, in which a city is usually fully surrounded and all supply lines are cut off. It was ten months of trench warfare in which Union forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assaulted the city unsuccessfully and then constructed trench lines that eventually extended over 30 miles around the eastern and southern outskirts of Petersburg.

What Is Included:

Expert Tour Leader.
 Hotel accommodations for one (1) night.
 Meals, as indicated on the itinerary below.
 Admissions, service charges and gratuities.
 All on-tour transportation. Motor coach to and around battlefields Saturday and Sunday, to hotel and dinner Saturday evening and return to starting location on Sunday.
 Map packet.
 Snacks and refreshments on bus.

What Is Not included:

Personal items such as wines, liquors, a-la-carte orders, meals other than specified on itinerary, in-hotel movies.
 Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We’re not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss’ Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let’s help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.

Tour Cost and Registration Information

- **Tour cost for members of the CWRT of DC and their significant others is \$300 per person single occupancy and \$250 per person double occupancy. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate. (To be considered for the member price, you must appear on the membership roster of the CWRT of DC as of January 31, 2008.)**
- **Tour cost for non-members of the CWRT-DC is \$350 per person single occupancy and \$300 per person double occupancy and cost includes one-year membership in the CWRT-DC. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate.**
- Deposits are applied to payment of the tour price.
- Space is reserved in the order of receipt of reservation request. To submit a request for a reservation, please submit the completed Registration Request, the signed and dated Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer (both below) and deposit or payment in full.
- Submitting this Reservation Request does not guarantee you a space on this tour. You will be notified of your status when your request has been received and processed. If there is no space available, you will automatically be placed on a waiting list, notified of your status, and any payment included with this Reservation Request will be refunded.
- The tour is designed for adults but may be suitable for children 14 years or age or older, with the necessary curiosity and interest. Regardless of age, children must pay full price and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Deposit or payment in full required to complete your registration request:

- Deposit of \$150 per person or payment in full due with this Registration Request. Please note: if making deposit, balance is due 30 days prior to the tour. You will not be invoiced. If the balance is not received 30 days prior to departure, your place cannot be guaranteed. Full payment is due if registering within 15 days of the date of departure, please call 202-306-4988 to confirm availability.

Cancellations and Refunds

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO OUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS POLICY.

- Cancellation within 30 days of departure: \$50.00 retained; remainder refunded
- Cancellation within 15 days of departure: \$125 retained; remainder refunded.
- Cancellation within 7 days of departure: no refund.
- Cancellation by the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia: full refund.
- No refund for unused portions of this tour, including but not limited to missed meals, hotel nights.
- Refunds will be processed within 45 days of cancellation.

You may cancel your participation in the tour 2 ways: Phone: 202-306-4988 prior to June 27, 2008 or by Email: cwrt_dc@comcast.net prior to June 26, 2008.

For more information, please see the our web site at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwtrdc.htm>

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I find up to date information about the tour? You may call 202-306-4988, email cwrt_dc@comcast.net or check the CWRT-DC website at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm> for up-to-date tour information. If you have any concerns about weather, we suggest you call 202-306-4988 prior to departing from home.

How can I order a meal that fits my dietary needs (food allergies/vegetarian)? Persons with special dietary requirements should **complete the section provided on the Registration Request for these special requirements. You will** be notified if your request cannot be met.

Does the tour operate rain or shine? Yes, the tour operates rain or shine. However, in the case of severe weather, the tour may be rescheduled, please call 202-306-4988 for last minute tour information prior to the tour.

How do I know if I meet the physical requirements for the tour? Participants should be in good physical condition as this tour involves daily walks. If you are doubtful of your physical abilities, please contact 202-306-4988 to discuss requirements for the tour.

What do I need to bring/wear on tour? Bring comfortable walking shoes and clothes suitable for the weather, hats, sunglasses, and be prepared for rain. Historically, for the Petersburg area in late June, the weather is humid with an average high temperature of 89°F and an average low of 66°F.

Is travel insurance provided? No, travel insurance is not provided.

Do you wait for everyone before the tour departs? Tour departs ON-TIME and does not wait for late arrivals.

How are seats determined on the bus? Seats on the bus are first-come/first-served but seats at or near the front of the bus may be reserved for those with special needs.

Important Tour Policies:

Signed Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer is required by all participants.

Smoking is not permitted on the bus. Our Cancellation and Refund Policy is strictly enforced.

Itinerary subject to minor changes as determined by the tour leader.

The tour bus will depart from Ft. McNair promptly at 8:00 am. Entrance to Ft. McNair is through the P Street gate. Please arrive by 7:30 am and be prepared for a delay getting through the gate and security when you arrive. You will be asked for a picture ID and your vehicle and bags are subject to search unless you have a current DOD sticker.

Suggested Reading:

Petersburg: Out of the Trenches by James W. Wensyel

The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign by A. Wilson Greene.

The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864-April 1865 by Noah Andre Trudeau

The Crater: Petersburg by John Cannan

Itinerary with Tour Leader, Ed Bearss

Itinerary is subject to minor change

Saturday; June 28, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. Depart Ft McNair Pool Parking (Arrive P Street Gate by 7:30 AM to allow for security check)
- 10:15 a.m. Petersburg National Battlefield Visitors Center (Admission included in registration price)
- Confederate Dimmock Line
- Confederate Battery 5
- The Dictator - huge Union mortar
- 11:15 a.m. Fort Stedman - Lee's Final Attempt to Break the Siege, Union Low Point
- Noon. Picnic Lunch at Visitors Center (included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour, depart for the Crater -The Battle of the Crater
- 2:15 p.m. Old Blanford Church & Cemetery
- 4:00 p.m. Rives' Salient - Wounding of Joshua Chamberlain
- 5:00 p.m. Weldon Railroad/Ream's Station/Globe Tavern - Confederate supply link
- 5:30 p.m. Depart for Dinner (included in registration price)
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated arrival by bus at hotel: Fairfield Inn, Chester VA, 804-778-7500

Sunday; June 29, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. Deluxe continental breakfast at hotel (included in registration price)
- 7:45 a.m. Depart hotel
- 8:00 a.m. White Oak Road - setting the stage for the end
Five Forks - anchor of the Confederate position
- Noon Lunch at Pamplin Historic Park (NOT included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour - Participants have choice of either:
Walking Tour of the Union Breakthrough with Ed Bearss
Self-Tour of Pamplin Park Museum of the Civil War Soldier
- 2:30 p.m. Depart Pamplin Park
- 3:00 p.m. City Point - Grant's Headquarters and Union supply depot
- 5:00 p.m. Leave for Ft. McNair
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated Arrival at Ft. McNair

REGISTRATION REQUEST AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

SIEGE OF PETERSBURG June 28 & 29 Registration Deadline: June 13, 2008

Maximum of One Registrant per Form. Please submit additional forms as required.

Name:

Check for double occupancy and indicate name of your roommate:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Hotel is NON-Smoking Room preference: King/Queen 2 Doubles (No guarantee but every effort will be made to meet request.)

Please specify any other special room, limited mobility or dietary requirements:

Tour Cost: \$ 300 PP for CWRT-DC members on roster as of 1/31/2008 & Significant Others
\$ 350 PP for non-CWRT-DC members (includes 1 year membership in the CWRT-DC)
Subtract \$50 from per person cost for double occupancy. You are responsible for finding a roommate. (See "Tour Cost and Registration Information.")

TOTAL Enclosed:

CANCELLATION POLICY: SEE "CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS".

Mail this completed and signed form with check payable to the CWRT of DC to: Jim Hurdle
1632 N. Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22207

If you are parking your vehicle at Ft. McNair, the following information is REQUIRED with registration.

Make:

Model:

License Plate #:

State of Issue:

Drivers License #:

State of Issue:

Owner's Name:

Owner's Telephone #:

READ CAREFULLY: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The undersigned agrees that:

1. I will not hold the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia ("CWRT"), its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or accident, delay or irregularity arising out of any act or omission of any entity supplying any goods or services in connection with this tour.
2. I will not hold the CWRT, its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or loss that I suffer in connection with this tour.
3. The CWRT may, without penalty or liability, make changes in the itinerary of this tour, withdraw the tour announced, decline to accept any person as a participant in this tour and require any participant to withdraw from this tour at any time whenever, in the judgment of its authorized agent, any of these actions are necessary.
4. My baggage and personal effects are at all times my sole responsibility.
5. Schedules, itinerary, and tour details, although provided in good faith based on information available, are subject to change and revision.
6. I have read this Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer, the itinerary for this tour, as well as the terms and conditions of application and participation as set forth in the tour information and this Registration Request, and recognize and accept any and all risks associated with this tour, and the conditions, including the Cancellations and Refunds Policy, set forth herein.
7. In consideration of, and as part payment for, the right to participate in this tour, I, on behalf of my dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, agree to release, hold harmless and indemnify the CWRT, its officers, board members and members from any and all liability for any loss, death, or injury to my person or property suffered in connection with this tour.

 Signature of Registrant /Tour Participant

 Date

If the registrant is under 21 years of age, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required. (Note that the minimum age is 14.)

 Parent or legal guardian (print name or names on line above)

 Signature

 Date

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



News Letter

June 2008
Volume 57, Number 10

Controlling the Lower Potomac

Early in the war, Union and Confederate forces attempted to blockade the lower Potomac River in an attempt to control commercial and military navigation on that strategic waterway. Both armies established significant fortifications and military encampments on the river's banks and the thousands of troops who lived there have left plentiful evidence of their presence buried in the region's rich alluvial soil.

The Siege Of Petersburg With Ed Bearss

Come with us on June 28 and 29 as we join Ed Bearss on a tour of the Siege of Petersburg. Ed will guide us through the Battery 5 area, Fort Stedman, historic Old Blandford Church and cemetery, The Crater, Five Forks, Pamplin Historic Park, and City Point. Details are further on in this newsletter.

June 2008 Meeting

Date:	Tuesday, June 10, 2008	Place:	Officers' Club Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
Price:	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		
Agenda:	6:00 pm Social Hour: 6:45 pm Dinner:	Cash Bar Prime Rib Roasted Potatoes Apple Pie	(Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
	8:00 pm Speaker: Topic:	John Haynes Controlling the Lower Potomac	

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.
The deadline for reservations is Monday, June 9, 2008. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall
3324 Glenmore Dr.
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com
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Home: 703-780-3874
Email: trusearch@aol.com

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Email: hurdle.jim@verizon.net

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Home: 703-578-1942
Email: restall@joimail.com

Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
Home: 703-527-7393
Email: jakwells@att.net

Newsletter Editor: Kenneth R. Rice
Home: 703-527-0077
Email: kennrice@erols.com

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CWRT of DC Membership Committee
Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

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For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

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Newsletter by Email

This newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice
4110 N. 17th Street
Arlington, VA 22207-3005
Email: kennrice@erols.com
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

John Haynes

John Haynes has been the Base Archaeologist at Quantico since 2004. For more than 10 years, John Haynes has been uncovering the archeological record of the soldiers and documenting the routines of their daily lives. He will share his wealth of findings in an illustrated PowerPoint presentation that gives new insights to lives long forgotten. The Portsmouth native has a BS in archeology from Virginia Commonwealth University and an MA from the University of Virginia. He has long been fascinated by the richness of information on the Civil War and three years ago began efforts to summarize survey reports on three Confederate camps on base property in National Register of Historic Places and provide a common context and support the evaluation of other sites. This work has been completed and the nominations will be reviewed by the Virginia Historic Resources Board this month.

Officer Elections

The officers for next year were elected at the May meeting. The Officers and Board of Governors for 2008-09 are:

President: Thomas R. Devaney
 Vice President: Susan Claffey
 Secretary: Jacqueline L. Lussier
 Treasurer: John W. Restall
 Board Member: Twyla Jackino
 Board Member: Dalton L. Truluck
 Board Member: Suzanne Rice
 Past President: Gordon Berg
 Newsletter Editor: Kenneth Rice

Membership Renewal

It is once again time to renew your membership. The membership form is in this newsletter and on our web site. Our membership has been falling the past few years. Please renew, and invite interested friends, neighbors, coworkers, strangers on the street, etc. to join us for the next year.

Round Table Flashback

The Rappahannock Valley CWRT is having flashbacks. They are trying to revive an old round table tradition of member discussion of a topic rather than sitting and listening to a speaker.

We have received an invitation from Marc Thompson, President of the Rappahannock Valley CWRT, to join them this coming October when they will feature member discussion of the book **The Cause Lost: Myths and Realities of the Confederacy** by William C. Davis.

Why are you reading about October in May? If you are interested and haven't read the book, now would be a good time to pick it up. And, if you wish to participate and want a voice in the topics to be discussed, pick the three chapters that interest you most and complete the form available on their web site at <http://www.rvcwrt.org/index.html>. They are also looking for group moderators. If you are interested, please contact Greg Martin at 116ovi@verizon.net and let him know which subject interests you.

It will be great fun and give us a chance for some camaraderie with this group (if nothing else, we can spy on another CWRT). Susan Claffey is planning to join them and hopes that some of you will too. She is sure we can structure a car pool down to Fredericksburg.

The RVCWRT meets on the second Monday of each month at Brock's Riverside Grill, 503 Sophia Street, in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Ed Bearss 85th Birthday

Please join us for the celebration of Ed's 85th birthday on Friday, June 27, 2008, at the Arlington Hilton, 950 N. Stafford St., Arlington, Virginia, from 5 to 9 pm. Dinner will be served at approximately 6:30 pm. Dress is work attire. The price is \$50.00, which

includes dinner (choice of chicken, fettuccine, or sirloin), coffee, tea, birthday cake, annual birthday button, and perhaps a surprise or two. There will be cash bar for the Joe Hookers in the crowd who wish to partake of some birthday spirits. A T-shirt commemorating Ed's birthday is available. It must be ordered by June 6. Please contact Wendy Swanson immediately if you wish to order a T-shirt. The T-shirts cost \$10-\$16, depending on size. RSVP to Wendy Swanson at 703-536-5464. RSVP forms will be available at the Round Table's meeting on June 10. The RSVP deadline is Friday, June 20, 2008.

This year Ed has chosen The Land Conservancy of Adams County as the recipient of his birthday gift. The Conservancy was established in 1994 as a non-profit land trust with the goal of preserving the lands and character of Adams County, PA. The organization has been instrumental in preserving over 600 acres of battlefield land, some within and some outside or adjacent to the Gettysburg Battlefield. Please consider giving a donation to assist this group in preserving historic lands in the Gettysburg area in honor of Ed's birthday. This is the best birthday gift we can give him. Please make checks out to "The Land Conservancy of Adams County."

We now have a flag for the Bearss Brigade to unfurl at the party. Think of some possible mottos for the Brigade. They too will have a role at the party. If you can't attend, feel free to send Ed a birthday greeting. Such messages will be read as T-mail from the front!

Weekend Tour - June 28 & 29, 2008

"The Last Citadel"

The Siege Of Petersburg

With Ed Bearss

Join the incomparable Civil War historian, Ed Bearss, for the Siege of Petersburg. Ed will lead a walk of the Battery 5 area, the strongest fortification on the original

Confederate Dimmock Line. Additional stops during the first day include Fort Stedman, where a pitched battle was fought in March 1865 in Lee's final attempt to relieve the long siege; historic Old Blandford Church and cemetery; and The Crater, scene of the terrible mine explosion in July 1864. On day two, the tour will visit Five Forks (the Confederate loss here broke Lee's last supply line and led to his retreat), Pamplin Historic Park (where the Union broke through the Confederate defense line), and City Point (Grant's headquarters and supply depot).

The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign was a series of battles fought around Petersburg until March 25, 1865 and is more popularly known as the Siege of Petersburg. It was not a classic military siege, in which a city is usually fully surrounded and all supply lines are cut off. It was ten months of trench warfare in which Union forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant assaulted the city unsuccessfully and then constructed trench lines that eventually extended over 30 miles around the eastern and southern outskirts of Petersburg.

What Is Included:

Expert Tour Leader.
Hotel accommodations for one (1) night.
Meals, as indicated on the itinerary below.
Admissions, service charges and gratuities.
All on-tour transportation. Motor coach to and around battlefields Saturday and Sunday, to hotel and dinner Saturday evening and return to starting location on Sunday.
Map packet.
Snacks and refreshments on bus.

What Is Not included:

Personal items such as wines, liquors, a-la-carte orders, meals other than specified on itinerary, in-hotel movies.
Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Itinerary with Tour Leader, Ed Bearss

Itinerary is subject to minor change

Saturday; June 28, 2008

- 8:00 a.m. Depart Ft McNair Pool Parking (Arrive P Street Gate by 7:30 AM to allow for security check)
- 10:15 a.m. Petersburg National Battlefield Visitors Center (Admission included in registration price)
 - Confederate Dimmock Line
 - Confederate Battery 5
 - The Dictator - huge Union mortar
- 11:15 a.m. Fort Stedman - Lee's Final Attempt to Break the Siege, Union Low Point
- Noon. Picnic Lunch at Visitors Center (included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour, depart for the Crater -The Battle of the Crater
- 2:15 p.m. Old Blanford Church & Cemetery
- 4:00 p.m. Rives' Salient - Wounding of Joshua Chamberlain
- 5:00 p.m. Weldon Railroad/Ream's Station/Globe Tavern - Confederate supply link
- 5:30 p.m. Depart for Dinner (included in registration price)
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated arrival by bus at hotel: Fairfield Inn, Chester VA, 804-778-7500

Sunday; June 29, 2008

- 7:00 a.m. Deluxe continental breakfast at hotel (included in registration price)
- 7:45 a.m. Depart hotel
- 8:00 a.m. White Oak Road - setting the stage for the end
 Five Forks - anchor of the Confederate position
- Noon Lunch at Pamplin Historic Park (NOT included in registration price)
- 1:00 p.m. Resume tour - Participants have choice of either:
 Walking Tour of the Union Breakthrough with Ed Bearss
 Self-Tour of Pamplin Park Museum of the Civil War Soldier
- 2:30 p.m. Depart Pamplin Park
- 3:00 p.m. City Point - Grant's Headquarters and Union supply depot
- 5:00 p.m. Leave for Ft. McNair
- 7:30 p.m. Estimated Arrival at Ft. McNair

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I find up to date information about the tour? You may call 202-306-4988, email cwrt_dc@comcast.net or check the CWRT-DC website at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm> for up-to-date tour information. If you have any concerns about weather, we suggest you call 202-306-4988 prior to departing from home.

How can I order a meal that fits my dietary needs (food allergies/vegetarian)? Persons with special dietary requirements should **complete the section provided on the Registration Request for these special requirements. You will** be notified if your request cannot be met.

Does the tour operate rain or shine? Yes, the tour operates rain or shine. However, in the case of severe weather, the tour may be rescheduled, please call 202-306-4988 for last minute tour information prior to the tour.

How do I know if I meet the physical requirements for the tour? Participants should be in good physical condition as this tour involves daily walks. If you are doubtful of your physical abilities, please contact 202-306-4988 to discuss requirements for the tour.

What do I need to bring/wear on tour? Bring comfortable walking shoes and clothes suitable for the weather, hats, sunglasses, and be prepared for rain. Historically, for the Petersburg area in late June, the weather is humid with an average high temperature of 89°F and an average low of 66°F.

Is travel insurance provided? No, travel insurance is not provided.

Do you wait for everyone before the tour departs? Tour departs ON-TIME and does not wait for late arrivals.

How are seats determined on the bus? Seats on the bus are first-come/first-served but seats at or near the front of the bus may be reserved for those with special needs.

Important Tour Policies:

Signed Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer is required by all participants.

Smoking is not permitted on the bus. Our Cancellation and Refund Policy is strictly enforced.

Itinerary subject to minor changes as determined by the tour leader.

The tour bus will depart from Ft. McNair promptly at 8:00 am. Entrance to Ft. McNair is through the P Street gate. Please arrive by 7:30 am and be prepared for a delay getting through the gate and security when you arrive. You will be asked for a picture ID and your vehicle and bags are subject to search unless you have a current DOD sticker.

Suggested Reading:

Petersburg: Out of the Trenches by James W. Wensyel

The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign by A. Wilson Greene.

The Last Citadel: Petersburg, Virginia, June 1864-April 1865 by Noah Andre Trudeau

The Crater: Petersburg by John Cannan

Tour Cost and Registration Information

- **Tour cost for members of the CWRT of DC and their significant others is \$300 per person single occupancy and \$250 per person double occupancy. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate. (To be considered for the member price, you must appear on the membership roster of the CWRT of DC as of January 31, 2008.)**
- **Tour cost for non-members of the CWRT-DC is \$350 per person single occupancy and \$300 per person double occupancy and cost includes one-year membership in the CWRT-DC. Participants are responsible for their own room sharing arrangements. The CWRT-DC will not be pairing participants. If you do not identify your roommate at the time of registration, you will be charged the single occupancy rate.**
- Deposits are applied to payment of the tour price.
- Space is reserved in the order of receipt of reservation request. To submit a request for a reservation, please submit the completed Registration Request, the signed and dated Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer (both below) and deposit or payment in full.
- Submitting this Reservation Request does not guarantee you a space on this tour. You will be notified of your status when your request has been received and processed. If there is no space available, you will automatically be placed on a waiting list, notified of your status, and any payment included with this Reservation Request will be refunded.
- The tour is designed for adults but may be suitable for children 14 years or age or older, with the necessary curiosity and interest. Regardless of age, children must pay full price and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Deposit or payment in full required to complete your registration request:

- Deposit of \$150 per person or payment in full due with this Registration Request. Please note: if making deposit, balance is due 30 days prior to the tour. You will not be invoiced. If the balance is not received 30 days prior to departure, your place cannot be guaranteed. Full payment is due if registering within 15 days of the date of departure, please call 202-306-4988 to confirm availability.

Cancellations and Refunds

PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO OUR CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS POLICY.

- Cancellation within 30 days of departure: \$50.00 retained; remainder refunded
- Cancellation within 15 days of departure: \$125 retained; remainder refunded.
- Cancellation within 7 days of departure: no refund.
- Cancellation by the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia: full refund.
- No refund for unused portions of this tour, including but not limited to missed meals, hotel nights.
- Refunds will be processed within 45 days of cancellation.

You may cancel your participation in the tour 2 ways: Phone: 202-306-4988 prior to June 27, 2008 or by Email: cwrt_dc@comcast.net prior to June 26, 2008.

For more information, please see the our web site at <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwtrdc.htm>

REGISTRATION REQUEST AND RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

SIEGE OF PETERSBURG June 28 & 29 Registration Deadline: June 13, 2008

Maximum of One Registrant per Form. Please submit additional forms as required.

Name:

Check for double occupancy and indicate name of your roommate:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Hotel is NON-Smoking Room preference: King/Queen 2 Doubles (No guarantee but every effort will be made to meet request.)

Please specify any other special room, limited mobility or dietary requirements:

Tour Cost: \$ 300 PP for CWRT-DC members on roster as of 1/31/2008 & Significant Others
\$ 350 PP for non-CWRT-DC members (includes 1 year membership in the CWRT-DC)
Subtract \$50 from per person cost for double occupancy. You are responsible for finding a roommate. (See "Tour Cost and Registration Information.")

TOTAL Enclosed:

CANCELLATION POLICY: SEE "CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS".

Mail this completed and signed form with check payable to the CWRT of DC to: Jim Hurdle
1632 N. Randolph Street
Arlington, VA 22207

If you are parking your vehicle at Ft. McNair, the following information is REQUIRED with registration.

Make:

Model:

License Plate #:

State of Issue:

Drivers License #:

State of Issue:

Owner's Name:

Owner's Telephone #:

READ CAREFULLY: RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT & LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

The undersigned agrees that:

1. I will not hold the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia ("CWRT"), its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or accident, delay or irregularity arising out of any act or omission of any entity supplying any goods or services in connection with this tour.
2. I will not hold the CWRT, its officers, board members or members liable for personal injury, death, property damage or loss that I suffer in connection with this tour.
3. The CWRT may, without penalty or liability, make changes in the itinerary of this tour, withdraw the tour announced, decline to accept any person as a participant in this tour and require any participant to withdraw from this tour at any time whenever, in the judgment of its authorized agent, any of these actions are necessary.
4. My baggage and personal effects are at all times my sole responsibility.
5. Schedules, itinerary, and tour details, although provided in good faith based on information available, are subject to change and revision.
6. I have read this Responsibility Statement and Liability Disclaimer, the itinerary for this tour, as well as the terms and conditions of application and participation as set forth in the tour information and this Registration Request, and recognize and accept any and all risks associated with this tour, and the conditions, including the Cancellations and Refunds Policy, set forth herein.
7. In consideration of, and as part payment for, the right to participate in this tour, I, on behalf of my dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, agree to release, hold harmless and indemnify the CWRT, its officers, board members and members from any and all liability for any loss, death, or injury to my person or property suffered in connection with this tour.

 Signature of Registrant /Tour Participant

 Date

If the registrant is under 21 years of age, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required. (Note that the minimum age is 14.)

 Parent or legal guardian (print name or names on line above)

 Signature

 Date

Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.