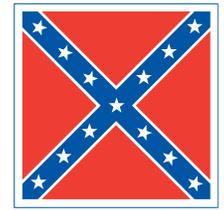


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVI, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May, 2006



651st REGULAR MEETING

MARK NOLL

ON

HOW THE BIBLE HELPED START THE CIVIL WAR

Friday, May 12

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

Chicken Vesuvio.

Catch of the Day.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, May 8**, by calling 630-460-1865. We now also have our **online dinner reservation system** at <http://www.thecwrt.org/commiss.htm>. Reservations made after Wednesday, May 10, will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

We are offering the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$5 per person.

Parking at the Holiday Inn is \$8 with a validated parking sticker.

MARK NOLL

- on -

“How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Evangelic Protestants who trusted “no creed but the Bible” contributed a great deal to civilizing the new United States. By the time of the Civil War, the country was home not only to dynamic and ever-expanding bodies of Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Disciples (and more), but also to a growing number of Roman Catholics and even a few Jews who also brought loyalty to the Scriptures into the public square. Nonetheless, evangelical Protestants remained the dominant religious force in the nation. Their exaltation of the Bible as the ultimate religious authority meant that the Scriptures remained unusually prominent in public life.

The sectional tensions of the 1840s and 1850s precipitated a religious crisis. The crisis resulted when Protestant Christians “who shared much the same piety as well as much the same commitment to Scripture” found themselves locked in mortal combat over the question of what the Bible taught about slavery.

On May 12th, Mark Noll will spotlight the growing crisis over biblical interpretation in the decades before the Civil War, and also how the crisis may have contributed to the intensity (and duration) of the conflict itself. Professor Noll will explore why Protestants were so tied up on knots on



Mark Noll

the question of the Bible and slavery while they remained relatively unconcerned about the question of the Bible and race.

Mark A. Noll is McManis Professor of Christian Thought and professor of history at Wheaton College (Wheaton, IL), where he has taught since 1979. He was educated at Wheaton (B.A., English), the University of Iowa (M.A., comparative literature), Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (M.A., church history), and Vanderbilt University (Ph.D., American religious history). He has been the recipient of two year-long fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and has also received academic grants from the Pew Charitable

Trusts and the Lilly Endowment, Inc. In the fall 2004 he was elected a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis*

(UNC Press, 2006) and numerous other books on historical and religious topics. Professor Noll and his wife, Maggie, are members of Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Warrenville, IL), where he regularly teaches adult education classes and has served as a ruling elder.



Battlefield Preservation Update

BY DAVID ZUCKER

New Orleans forts were devastated by Katrina. According to the *Times-Picayune* of New Orleans, Katrina caused considerable damage to Forts Jackson, St. Phillip and Pike. Damage was done to the walls and casemates in all three locations, as well as to artifacts in Fort Jackson. The **Civil War Preservation Trust** has listed all three forts on its 2006 ranking of the Nation's Ten Most Endangered Battle Sites. With this designation the Trust hopes to work with various governmental groups and private organizations to try to repair the forts.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's gaming board is considering twenty-two applications for fourteen casino licenses and deciding which casinos, if any, should be located in Gettysburg. Opponents are arguing that the casinos would spoil the town's heritage and atmosphere. Proponents say that the casino money would fund more social services. Governor Edward Rendell has said he does not favor a casino in the area but pointed out that the decision rests not with him but with the gaming board whose members are named by the governor and state legislative leaders.

Among other threatened sites is the battlefield at Raymond, Mississippi which was visited by those of us who went on the Vicksburg Tour last year. Sixty-five acres of the one thousand acre site are protected and a new interpretative trail has been completed but threats remain. A state

highway runs through the battlefield and its location near Jackson's suburbs has led to commercial and residential development along the highway.

The Chattahoochee River Line which we visited on the Atlanta tour two years ago is also a threatened site, according to the Civil War Preservation Trust. As late as the 1950's one could still walk the length of the river line but since then suburban development has devastated the site. While on the tour we were shown the positions occupied by the "Shoupades". These were little forts, well built, 36 in number and connected by a series of trenches. The Shoupades were named after their designer Francis Shoup, an Indiana-born Confederate general. When Gen. Joseph Johnson withdrew the Confederate army from the Shoupades and retreated to Atlanta he was relieved of his command.

Of the original thirty-six, the earthen remains of only nine are left. Cobb County owns one Shoupade site, but the rest are all in private hands. Some rezonings have led to the approval of a one hundred townhouse development. This will not damage the Shoupades themselves but will destroy their context, leaving a view of houses rather than woods and fields.

The final threat to be discussed involves the Circle Forts that surround Washington, D.C. These forts were built to protect Washington, D.C. from Confederate attacks. Fort Stevens

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 9670 N. Dee #205 Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, or contact webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org.

was partly reconstituted in the 1930's. The only site specific museum or interpretative center is at Fort Ward. The government plans to close Walter Reed Army Medical Center and threatens to bring commercial development near the site of Fort Stevens.

CIVIL WAR LANDSCAPES

The website of "Civil War Landscapes Association" features computer graphics with three-dimensional reconstructions of Civil War battlefields, troop movement maps and animations, photos, and textual coverage. According to the CWLA, their mission is to "develop photographic, cartographic, and textual information concerning the Civil War." An online tour of Shiloh has been completed and can be viewed at www.civilwarlandscapes.org. Photos are also posted for twenty-five additional battlefields.

APRIL MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On April 21st **Horace Mewborn** gave an interesting program on “John Mosby and his Rangers” before 63 members and guests at the 650th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. A native of North Carolina, Mewborn served for several years in Special Forces in Vietnam. He was in the FBI for 21 years, and has written many articles and co-authored a book on Mosby’s command. Mewborn’s presentation emphasized the major achievements, the enduring military qualities, and the legacy of Mosby and his men.

John Singleton Mosby practiced law as a young man, but exhibited little interest in military affairs until the Civil War began. He earned a reputation as a scout for Confederate cavalry leader Jeb Stuart early in the war. Impressed by Mosby, Stuart gave him more assignments. Eventually Mosby rose to the rank of colonel. On December 29, 1862, Stuart authorized Mosby to take 9 men and conduct raids around Aldie, Virginia, then return to Stuart with the results.

Relying on mobility and unpredictability, Mosby’s guerrilla tactics involved small units of cavalry, moving quickly from point to point. Their primary mission was not to kill Union soldiers. Rather, they were to raid supply trains and capture Union dispatches, anything to disrupt Union plans. It was anticipated that in response to these raids the Union army would be forced to divert many troops that would otherwise be used against Robert E. Lee’s army.

Loudon County in northern Virginia was the scene of most of Mosby’s exploits. This area, close to Washington D.C., stretched from

the Bull Run Mountains to the Blue Ridge Mountains. A vital factor in Mosby’s success was the dedicated support of the civilian population of Loudon County. They housed and fed the Rangers and provided hiding places. Mosby’s Rangers, and their leader, disdained drill and camp life. When not raiding, the Rangers scattered to their homes and farms. After a raid, Mosby’s men seemed to disappear at will.

A problem that Mosby faced was that the higher Confederate command didn’t understand how to coordinate the guerrilla tactics of Mosby with the larger operations of the Army of Northern Virginia. One example of this was in the spring of 1863. During the Chancellorsville Campaign Mosby was assigned as a target the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. The Rangers might have been more effectively used, because from a strategic point of view raids on that railroad weren’t important. During the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign Confederate General Jubal Early refused to coordinate his movements with Mosby.

Among Mosby’s sterling military qualities was his instinct for taking the calculated risk. Even when outnumbered, Mosby led vigorous, unexpected assaults that shocked the Federals. “This offensive action by a small guerrilla force effectively seized, exploited, and maintained the initiative to a successful conquest. His leadership was marked by brave, but not rash, decisions,” explained Mewborn.

Mosby’s men relied on their horse and their revolvers. Mewborn proclaimed, “Mosby reasoned that carbines and sabers were clumsy and useless for in-close cavalry fighting, so the Rangers only used

revolvers.” Each Ranger was required to have two horses., and many carried 4 or even 6 revolvers.

A principal reason for the *esprit de corps* among the Rangers was a time-honored incentive—money. The chance to capture Union “greenbacks” was a major lure to men joining the Rangers. Mosby noted this incentive when he discussed the “cohesive power of public plunder!” On one daring raid in 1864, his Rangers captured \$72,000—about \$2,000 per man.

“One of the things that intrigued me was the present popularity of Mosby’s Rangers,” stated Mewborn. The Mosby “myth” was aided by many books and articles written by Mosby after the war. The Northern press also aided in the mythmaking. Mewborn concluded, “I think that the most enduring fact that created so much popularity for Mosby and his Rangers occurred in 1957, when a TV show entitled “The Gray Ghost” about Mosby appeared. As far as I know Mosby was the only Civil War personality to have a TV show!”



BOOK BY DECEMBER SPEAKER GETS RAVE REVIEW

The new book by our December speaker, Tom Chaffin, *Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah*, was reviewed by the History Book Club. Reviewer William C. “Jack” Davis, author of *Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour*, states: “[This] story has been told before, but never with such style or drama. Research in all the pertinent sources grounds a narrative that moves quickly but authoritatively . . .”

GRAPESHOT



Pat Brennan, associate editor of *North & South Magazine* and CWRT member, will be speaking on "The Battle of Nashville" at the Salt Creek CWRT's annual banquet. The event is June 2nd at the Lisle Hilton. For more information, phone Bill Hupp at (630) 790-3823 or visit www.saltcreekcwrt.org.

The Northern Illinois CWRT will hold its 23rd annual banquet meeting June 2nd at Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. The banquet will feature **Edward Bonekemper** speaking on "U.S. Grant". The cost is \$32. For reservations or more information, phone Tom De Franco Jr. at (708) 456-2251.

The April-May issue of *Military Images Magazine* features an article by CWRT member **Henry Pomerantz** on James Lowery Donaldson, the Quartermaster General of Sherman's Army. Included are numerous original photographs.

CWRT member **Oscar Walchirk** will be speaking on "Jewish Soldiers and Sailors in the American Civil War" at the Wilmette Public Library on June 27th, at 12:15. The program will include a video presentation. For more information, contact Oscar at (847) 256-7805 or email him at gfow401@aol.com.

Know of any upcoming talks, events, or publications? All members are welcome to contribute items to the newsletter. Contact the editor at bsallardice1@peoplepc.com or (847) 375-8305.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

Lapel pins, Meeting Tapes and other items are on sale at each monthly meeting, with proceeds to go to battlefield preservation. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by Ralph G. Newman and other members. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum raise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds benefit battlefield preservation.

CWRT ELECTION IN MAY

At our May meeting the CWRT will vote to elect officers for the 2006-2007 year. The list of nominees was printed in the March newsletter. They are:

President: Nancy Jacobs
Senior VP: Roger Rudich
1st VP: Jerry Allen
2nd VP: Steve Stewart
Treasurer: Rae Radovich
Asst. Treasurer: Tom Trescott
Secretary: Donna Tuohy
Asst. Secretary: Mary Beth Foley
New Trustee for term ending 2007: Sonya Reschly
Trustees for term ending 2008: JoEllen Kowalski, John Van Dellen, Bob Carlson, Brian Seiter

GRADY McWHINEY DIES

Noted author **Grady McWhiney** died April 18th at his Abilene, Texas home, after a lengthy illness. Professor McWhiney is known for his many books on the Civil War and southern culture, including *Braxton Bragg and Confederate Defeat*, *Attack and Die*, and *Cracker Culture: Celtic Ways in the Old South*. McWhiney taught at many colleges, including Northwestern U., and spoke to our CWRT on several occasions. According to the *New York Times*, he "made an indelible mark on his profession".

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

May 12: **Mark Noll**, "How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War"

June 9: **George Rable**, "Fredricksburg in the Larger Civil War Universe"

Sept. 8: **Michael Kaufman**, "American Brutus"

Oct. 13 (Nevins Freeman Address): **Dr. Gordon Dammann**, "Father of Battlefield Medicine—Dr. Jonathan Letterman"

Nov. 10: **Bob O'Neill**, "Eastern Cavalry"

Dec. 8: **Tom Chaffin**, "CSS Shenandoah, Ship of Gray"

CHANTILLY MOVIE

Director Bert Morgan and author Chuck Mauro have teamed up to make a short documentary-drama on the 1862 Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill). Fought immediately after the Second Battle of Manassas, Stonewall Jackson's men repelled an assault by Union forces, killing two prominent Union generals, Phil Kearny and Isaac Stevens. The movie features the use of Civil War re-enactors in leading roles. Said Morgan, "No one has ever given [the re-enactors] the abilities to stand out and do a dramatic role."