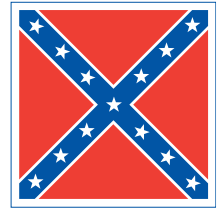


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVIII, Number 11

Chicago, Illinois

September, 2007



663rd REGULAR MEETING

HORACE MEWBORN

ON

“STUART’S RIDE AROUND McCLELLAN IN JUNE 1862”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, September 14

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$35 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

Sliced Striploin.

Catch of the Day.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Sept. 10** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing chicagocwrtdinner@earthlink.net with the names of your party and their choice of entrée. Reservations made after Wednesday, Sept. 12, will be surcharged \$5.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If a cancellation becomes necessary after dinner reservations have been made, please call the number before 9 a.m. Thursday to avoid a charge.

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 \$10 with a validated parking sticker.

Horace Mewborn

on

Stuart’s Ride Around McClellan in June 1862

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Jeb Stuart's June 1862 circuit of the Army of the Potomac was one of the most romanticized events of the war. The primary object of the expedition was to determine if McClellan was fortifying the right flank of his army, but the expedition also had a secondary mission of gathering forage, provisions and horses from the Union forces, and destroying as much military property as possible. Stuart departed on June 12, 1862 and returned on June 15. During the ride, which covered about 100 miles, Stuart's 1,200 men engaged in a few skirmishes, captured and sank two schooners, and destroyed Tunstall's Station on the York River Railroad. One odd feature of Stuart's raid was that the pursuing Union cavalry was commanded by his father-in-law, Union General Philip St. George Cooke.

Based on the invaluable intelligence that Stuart provided to Lee, the Confederate commander planned his Seven Days' Campaign. The ride also marked the first public setback in George McClellan's



Horace Mewborn

career as army commander.

Horace Mewborn is a native of North Carolina. After graduating from Campbell College he served seven years in the U.S. Army, with 2-1/2 years in Vietnam. After leaving the army, he graduated from East Carolina University and entered the FBI. Among his assignments with the FBI were tours of duty in New York City, Washington D.C., and FBI headquarters. He has authored five articles for *Blue and Gray Magazine*, including three articles about the operations of John Mosby and his Rangers and an

August, 1998 article on Stuart's ride around McClellan. Horace co-authored the book on Mosby's command, the 43rd Battalion, Virginia

Cavalry, for the H.E. Howard Virginia Regimental series, and he compiled and edited "From Mosby's Command". A guide for the CWRT's 2006 battlefield tour, Horace currently resides in New Bern, N.C.



Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has announced the purchase of 318 acres comprising the core of the **Glendale, or Frayser's Farm Battlefield** for a price of 4.1 million dollars. "This is going to be our Slaughter Pen Farm of 2007", said trust spokesman Jim Campi, referring to CWPT's 12 million dollar campaign launched last year to preserve a crucial portion of the Fredericksburg Battlefield.

At Glendale, the trust closed in March and April on four properties, fronting the Darbytown, Long Bridge, and Willis Church roads. The land also surrounds the Glendale National Cemetery on Willis Church Road, which holds the remains of twelve thousand union soldiers.

"Now it needs to be paid for", said Campi. He noted that while CWPT had preserved thirty nine acres at Glendale in late 2005, little of the core Battle Field was protected. He called the new acquired land "immensely historic ground site of some of the most intense close quarters combat of the entire war." He added that the purchase represents "a remarkable turnaround at a site where, until recently there wasn't much for visitors to visit".

Glendale, June 30, 1862, was the fifth of the seven day battles on the Virginia Peninsula.

Richmond National Battlefield Historian Robert E. Lee Krick said "the purchase defies comparison. Less than two years ago every single acre of the battlefield remained vulnerable in an area booming with development. Now the core battlefield has been protected forever."

The tracts lie just North of another seven hundred and fifty acres at Malvern Hill that the trust helped to preserve. All the land is within the park boundaries, and the Glendale Properties will eventually be handed over to the park, Campi said.

Campi said a fundraising letter will go out to CWPT's seventy thousand members some time in July. Along with many of my fellow CWRT members, I

have already gotten this letter.

Fort Donelson:

Representatives Ed Whitfield (R-KY), and John Tanner (D-TN), along with Senators Mitch McConnell (R-KY), and Jim Bunning (R-KY), were instrumental in drafting and securing passage in their respective bodies of the Fort Donelson National Battlefield Expansion Act of 2004. (Public Law 108-367)

That act provides for the expansion of the park from its current six hundred acre ceiling to two thousand acres and allows for the acquisition of Fort Heiman in Kentucky.

The legislation further instructs the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a memorandum of understanding to cooperatively protect the remaining vestige of Fort Henry and other remaining Civil War sites in The Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. The three forts will be linked interpretively just as they were militarily during the war.

This trio of forts was constructed along the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers in order to block these natural pathways of invasion to the deep south situated along the Kentucky-Tennessee line. The largest and best-known of these forts was Donelson which was situated on the Cumberland River only twelve miles east of Forts Heiman and Henry that were constructed on opposite banks of the Tennessee River.

These forts fell to combined union land and naval forces in February 1862 and launched Ulysses S. Grant into the national spotlight when he demanded "Unconditional surrender" of Fort Donelson.

Debbie Spencer of the Western Kentucky Corporation in conjunction with Tom Fogate of the Kentucky Heritage Counsel, Judge Larry Elkins of Calloway County Kentucky, Sandy Forrest, Jerry Lessenberry, and Fred Wilhite of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and others raised more than

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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.

one million dollars that have been used to secure more than two hundred acres at Fort Heiman that have recently been turned over to the National Park Service by Governor Ernie Fletcher of Kentucky.

In concert with these activities friends of Fort Donelson, led by the energetic Nelma Crutcher, Fred Prouty of the Tennessee Wars Commission, and the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has in the last few years worked diligently to protect more than three hundred acres at Fort Donelson.

The park, as originally established by Congress, only encompassed the 15 acre fort and line of outer works. However, the area where the battle was fought and the blood shed has remained in private hands since the Civil War.

Much of the area that encompassed this fighting has been purchased by the CWPT and will eventually be turned over to the National Park Service.

Arkansas sites: at Helena, Ark. Mark Christ and the Department of Arkansas Heritage have been instrumental in working with private land owners, the archaeological conservancy, the Delta Cultural Center, and the City of Helena to preserve batteries A and D, and the sites of Battery C, that played a significant role in the Battle of Helena on July 4, 1863. Plans are being made for the reconstruction of Fort Curtis and the development of a walking trail.

JUNE MEETING

BY TOM TRECOTT

On June 8, 2007, John Coski spoke to some 77 members and guests at the 662nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on "The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem". This fascinating presentation showed that some Civil War battles were away from the battlefield, in print, and not all in the South.

Coski's talk was based on his book of the same title, which in turn was the result of a twelve year project examining how background and perspective shape experiencing the Civil War's origins and meaning, and how such questions as race, political correctness, and the larger "culture wars" effect the meaning of symbols. Are these symbols absolute or relative? When and why did the Confederate Battle Flag become the Confederate Flag? Is that just? And how did it acquire this designation? As Coski would go on to show us, different perspectives provide different meanings.

Our speaker reminded the Round Table that despite what many think, the flag with a blue St. Andrew's cross (or saltier) on a red field was not the "Stars and Bars" --- the first version of the national flag. Adopted by the Confederate Congress on March 4, 1861, this flag symbolized the hesitance of the Southern states to leave the Union, and already had problems. First, with red and white stripes and a blue union with stars in the corner, it was so similar to the U.S. flag as to be confused in battle, as it was at First Bull Run. To address this issue, Generals Joseph E. Johnston and P.G.T. Beauregard adopted, in the fall of 1861, as battle flags for the Army of Northern Virginia, a design which had been rejected for the national flag --- the familiar pattern, mentioned above, with 11 to 13 white mullets, or five-pointed stars, upon

the saltier. By 1862 the originally square battle flag was elongated into a rectangular pattern, which is more in line with a national banner.

A second problem with the national flag was that it was too much like the flag of "the invader". While numerous other flags were used by Confederate troops, by 1862 the "Army of Northern Virginia" battle flag, more than any other, had been "consecrated" by the blood of the soldiers who had fought under it. In the spring of 1863, with some form of the ANV flag universally replacing the use of the national flag, even in non-military usages, a change was in order. The second Confederate Flag, the so-called "Stainless Banner" was adopted on May 1, 1863. It had a pure white field (hence the name) instead of stripes, and the Battle Flag replacing the blue union in the corner. The third edition of the national flag, revised because the white field could be taken as a flag of truce or surrender, was shortened from a rectangle to a square, with a broad red bar added to the width of the fly end. This Flag Act of March 4, 1865, created the final version of the Flag of the Confederate States of America.

So why did the Confederate Battle Flag become a point of debate? At the end of the war, it was not a valid question. The Battle Flag by 1865 was simply the standard the soldiers fought under, symbolizing their struggle for independence, and shouldn't bear any controversy.

In fact, until the 1940's, the Confederate Battle Flag was seen in very limited ways: at monuments, memorials, and at gatherings of the United Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Why then did this flag become the symbol of the Confederacy rather than the national

flag? For one thing, it carried the burden of nationalism, preserved by the vets themselves, for it was the army that kept the Confederacy alive those four years. The last UCV committee on the subject decided that this popular image version would be the Confederate Battle Flag.

The breakout scenario for the use of the Battle Flag, when it came to be shorthand for the South, was in the World War II era, when Southern soldiers needed tokens of home, and found the flag a convenient symbolic image. In 1947, when the University of Virginia football team went to Philadelphia to play Penn, the Battle Flag was an ideal symbol of identity and a reminder of a previous time when Virginians journeyed north to Pennsylvania to do battle.

The Battle Flag was given a political twist in 1948 by young partisans of the States Rights "Dixiecrats". After all, when was the last time the South mobilized against Federal interference with the Southern way of life? The citizens of the old Confederacy understood the flag as a symbol of resistance. The Ku Klux Klan, coming relatively late its use, picked the flag up at this time.

In his talk, Coski ably demonstrated that it has been only the last 50 years that the country as a whole taken up the issue of the Confederate Battle Flag. Bikers, truckers, and the TV show "Dukes of Hazzard" would become part of the cacophony of voices using the flag, and raising up the question "Is what it means to me what it really means?" But for the historians, and for all of us, the lingering question is "Can it be restored to its original meaning?", because we have to deal with the whole history of flag; we can't pick and choose the meanings that suit us.

GRAPESHOT

The **Decatur CWRT** will be holding its 12th annual fall symposium Saturday, Sept. 8th, at Yoder's Kitchen Banquet Facility in Arthur, IL. Among the speakers will be our own **Larry Hewitt**, whose talk is titled "Lee's Finest Hour". Cost is \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door, and includes lunch. For more information, phone (217) 578-2262.

Our good friends at the **Milwaukee CWRT** are celebrating their 60th Anniversary this year by sponsoring a symposium. The event will feature talks by authors Tom Desjardins and Eric Wittenberg, and Kenosha Museum Curator Dan Joyce, and will be held at the Four Points by Sheridan Milwaukee Airport, 4747 S. Howell, Milwaukee. Cost is \$95 per person, and includes lunch. For more information, contact Lance Herdegen at (262) 210-6889 or herdegen@cc.edu.

The Civil War Collectors Show is coming again to the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton Sept. 15th.

Historian **James M. McPherson** has been chosen to receive the first **Pritzker Military Library Literature Award** for lifetime achievement in military history. The award, which comes with a \$100,000 honorarium, will be presented at an Oct. 6th dinner in Chicago.

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

Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

CWRT OFFICERS FOR 2007-08

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 Rae Radovich, Second Vice President
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Trustees, terms to expire in 2009: Jim Cunningham, Sonya Reschly, Cheryl Cooke, David Zucker

Trustees, terms to expire in 2008: Robert Carlson, JoEllen Kowalski, Paulette Whitt, John Van Dellen

A list of committee chairs will be in the next issue.

At the CWRT's summer board meeting, the board hiked dinner prices to \$35, and Holiday Inn parking to \$10, due to increased costs. Our website (www.thecwrt.org) has been changed, and email dinner reservations now must be made to a new email address, chicagocwrtedinner@earthlink.net. And a reminder—get your **2007-2008 dues** in today.

The next meeting of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee will be held at the home of chair Rob Girardi on Saturday, September 29 at 9:30 A.M. All members in good standing of the CWRT are invited. Please contact Rob at (773) 693-7387 or cvlwarguy@aol.com if you plan to attend.

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*.

Sept. 14: Nevins-Freeman

Address—**Horace Mewborn**,
 "Stuart's Ride Around McClellan
 in June 1862"

Oct. 12: **A. Wilson Green**,
 "Petersburg"

Nov. 9: **Gabor Boritt**, "Lincoln at
 Gettysburg"

Dec. 14: **Gordon Rhea**, "Charles
 Whilden and the Wilderness"

Jan. 11: **Ed Cotham**, "Civil War
 Marines"

Feb. 8: **David Long**, ..Topic TBD

March 14: **Brian Wills**,
 "Civil War in Cinema"

**Richard Norton Smith to
 Speak in Elmhurst!**

World-renowned historian Richard Norton Smith, former director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, will be speaking at Elmhurst College on Saturday, September 30th. The talk, titled "Giving Politics a Good Name: Abraham Lincoln and the permanent Campaign", will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Elmhurst College's Hammerschmidt Auditorium (190 Prospect Ave., Elmhurst). The event, co-sponsored by Elmhurst College and the Elmhurst History Museum, is free and is open to the public. A book signing will follow the talk. For more information, visit www.Elmhurst.org/Elmhurst/museum or phone (630) 617-7033.