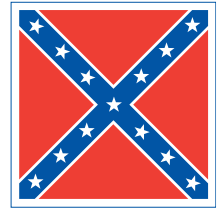


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVIII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October, 2007



## 664th REGULAR MEETING

WILL GREENE

ON

“CIVIL WAR PETERSBURG”

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, October 12

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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:*

*Chicken en Crouete.*

*Catch of the Day.*

*Vegetarian Plate*

*or Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Oct 8** by calling **630-460-1865**. Reservations can also be made by emailing [chicagocwrtddinner@earthlink.net](mailto:chicagocwrtddinner@earthlink.net) with the names of your party and their choice of entrée. Reservations made after Wednesday, Oct. 10, 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.*

### A. Wilson Greene

on

## Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The sleepy tobacco town of Petersburg, Virginia, twenty-three miles south of Richmond, became the focus of Grant's 1864-65 Campaign to take Richmond and defeat Robert E. Lee's army. As Confederate general E. Porter Alexander pointed out, the railroads from the south which supplied Richmond ran through here, so "If Petersburg were captured, Richmond could no longer be held..."

On October 12th Will Greene, head of Petersburg's Pamplin Park Historical Park, will describe Petersburg, the seventh largest city in the Confederacy, and how it made its transition from a pro-Union town to a rabid Confederate city. He'll focus on what life was like for the citizens in Petersburg, the impact of the Petersburg Campaign on the town, and the role Petersburg played in Confederate military strategy from 1861-1864. This talk will be based on Greene's new book on Petersburg.

Educated in the public schools of



A. Wilson Greene

Wheaton, Illinois, Will Greene holds degrees from Florida State U and LSU. He is President & CEO of Pamplin Park Historical Park, and past president of the APCWS. He is the author of numerous articles on the Civil War, and has authored or co-authored several books, including *Civil War Petersburg: Confederate City in the Crucible of War* (2006); *Breaking the Backbone of the Rebellion: The Final Battles of the Petersburg Campaign* (2000); and the *National Geographic Guide to Civil War National Battlefield Parks*. He is currently under contract with UNC Press for a two volume history of the Petersburg Campaign. Mr. Greene has addressed more than ninety Civil War Round Tables and related special interest groups. He leads tours for Blue & Gray Education Association, History America Tours, the Civil War Preservation Trust, Historical Tours, and others. He has been the guest historian on eleven Civil War cruises for the Delta Queen Steamboat Company.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

**CWRT Receives Thanks for Donations:** After this newsletter went to press for the June issue and over the summer, we received notes of gratitude for contributions from our Battlefield Preservation Fund to several projects and organizations. Jim Lighthizer responded for the Civil War Preservation Trust on his organization's being chosen a co-awardee of the Ed Bearss Award for its Slaughter Pen Farm campaign: "I would like to personally thank you for your recent gift...for Slaughter Pen Farm preservation in honor of Mr. Edwin C. Bearss....CWPT will continue to work extremely hard to make sure that the work of preserving Civil War history and battlefield sites will not languish."

Ed also chose the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association as a co-winner. From Christopher Kolakowski, executive director of the PBPA, came the following sentiments: "...We are honored and humbled to be named co-recipient of the sixth annual Edwin C. Bearss Award. This award is an outstanding tribute, and on behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of the PBPA I wish to express our deepest appreciation for the recognition and \$1000 contribution.

Since November 2005, the PBPA and its partners have added 153 acres to Perryville Battlefield Historic Site, bringing the total amount of preserved land to 669 acres....

Personally, Ed Bearss is a friend and mentor to me, and receiving this recognition from him is a singular honor. Ed has long been involved with our efforts at Perryville, and has lent his name to some of our most important projects. We appreciate all he has done and continues to do for battlefield preservation in this country.

Again, thank you very much

for the award and donation. We look forward to partnering with the CWRT of Chicago and Ed Bearss on future projects at Perryville." (Chris also added a handwritten "See you in 2009!"—referring to our anticipated visit during the spring tour ["Kentucky/Lincoln"] that year.)

Dr. David Bush, chair of the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison, thanked the CWRT for its gift to help pay down his group's current mortgage of \$200,000-plus on over one hundred acres near Sandusky, Ohio: "Thank you very much for your recent gift of \$2,500....Your organization's support of historic preservation allows us to remain steadfast in our goal to permanently safeguard and maintain the island for future educational, interpretive and research programs.

As you are well aware, Johnson's Island is considered one of the best-preserved examples of a Civil War prisoner-of-war facility in the United States. The prison site offers a rare opportunity for students and educators to make a direct connection to the past unlike any other....

Again, many thanks for your commitment to the Friends...and our mission of preserving a significant Civil War site. You have our continued gratitude and appreciation."

Members of the CWRT also received a letter of gratitude from Howard Kittell, executive director of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation in New Market, Virginia, for our memorial gift honoring Marvin Sanderman: "On behalf of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, please accept my sincere appreciation for your recent contribution of \$500 to the SVBF in memory of Marvin Sanderman. Although saddened to hear of Mr. Sanderman's passing, we

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[www.thecwrt.org](http://www.thecwrt.org)

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](mailto:webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org).

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are truly appreciative of his passion for the McDowell battlefield. Thanks to people like Mr. Sanderman, much of the McDowell battlefield has been preserved. These funds will be used to further our preservation and interpretation of McDowell. ...

Your financial support is appreciated not only for its "dollars and cents" value, but also as a statement to our constituents and partners about just how important the Foundation's work is, and for that I am truly grateful."

See the Web sites of the above-mentioned organizations for additional information on their ongoing work: [www.civilwar.org](http://www.civilwar.org); [www.perryville.net](http://www.perryville.net); [www.johnsonsisland.com](http://www.johnsonsisland.com); and [www.ShenandoahAtWar.org](http://www.ShenandoahAtWar.org). We of the Civil War Round Table have much for which to be proud in our efforts to help these and other front-line battlefield preservation groups. Their commitment, however, cannot get the job done alone; as they cannot rest on the laurels of their past successes, neither can we. Please consider seriously what you as an individual and the CWRT as an organization can do to remain a substantial player in the movement to save these parts of our history that keep on calling us back to them.

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

BY TOM TRECOTT

On September 14, 2007, Horace Mewborn spoke to 82 members and guests at the 663rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on "Stuart's Ride Around McClellan in June, 1862", one of the most famous cavalry expeditions of the War and one whose merits are still a point of contention.

By the end of May, 1862, George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac had come within ten miles of the Confederate capital, close enough to hear the city's church bells. But on the first day of June, Robert E. Lee assumed command of the Army of Northern Virginia. Knowing the new commander would need timely information concerning the disposition of the Union forces to develop any operation plans, Brig. Gen. James Ewell Brown (JEB) Stuart, commander of the Confederate cavalry, met with Lee to discuss a reconnaissance in force around the right flank of the Federals.

During this June 11th conference, Stuart must have suggested circling the Army of the Potomac, for in his written orders Lee admonished that "you will return as soon as the object of your expedition is accomplished, and you must bear constantly in mind... not to hazard unnecessarily your command or to attempt what your judgment may not approve; but be content to accomplish all the good you can without feeling it necessary to obtain all that might be desired."

On June 12, Stuart awoke his staff with the brief order "Gentlemen, in ten minutes every man must be in his saddle!". Leaving from just north of Richmond shortly before noon, the expedition bivouacked at Hanover Court House. Well before daylight on the 13th, Stuart had his gray horsemen in the saddle and moving east.

The Union Cavalry had not been inactive, however. A company of the 5th

U.S. Cavalry observed the Confederate column, and clashed with Stuart's advance guard near Old Church. After a brief skirmish the Southern attack broke the outnumbered Federals, who stampeded through the trees to make their escape.

Stuart later stated that this was the deciding point for him. He had achieved General Lee's primary objective (intelligence on the Union right flank) and now he had to decide how to return to the Confederate lines. Stuart could go back the way he came, but he was sure the enemy would anticipate this movement. He could swing north to avoid the Union forces, but he would have to cross the South Anna River, which was impossible since all the bridges had been destroyed and the river was flooded. But he had a third alternative: to move south and cross the Chickahominy River below Tunstall's Station, which the Federals would not expect and offered the chance to carry out General Lee's additional instructions to destroy the enemy's communications --- the York River Railroad, McClellan's major supply line. This alternative involved riding clear around McClellan's army, and the daring Stuart embraced this option.

After surprising Union troops at Tunstall's Station and destroying the supplies there, Stuart contemplated the capture and destruction of the supply depot at White House, only four or five miles away, which would force McClellan to retreat, or least drastically delay him. But Stuart decided against it, perhaps influenced by a false report of Federal strength by a Union prisoner.

When the column reached the Chickahominy, the men were forced to quickly construct a walkway over the turbulent river, and after some difficulty the last man was across by about 1:00 pm on June 14. As the Confederates burned their bridge, a rifle shot from the north bank alerted them to the arrival

of the Federals --- ironically, under the overall command of Philip St. George Cooke, Stuart's father-in-law.

The rest of the ride was uneventful, and the column entered the city early on the morning of June 15, where it received much praise for its accomplishments, rejuvenating the weary, exhausted troopers. Confederate newspapers, seeking relief from the depressing news, of retreats, praised the achievements of the raid.

Although Stuart's expedition was planned and executed to perfection, critics have questioned its significance in purely military terms, pointing out the results were not as spectacular or beneficial as some believed. The success of its primary objective, to gather information, is more difficult to evaluate, as Stuart barely mentioned any intelligence in his report. Undoubtedly, Stuart provided Lee with important intelligence concerning weaknesses of the Army of the Potomac, as shortly after Stuart's return Lee ordered Jackson to join him from the Shenandoah. It forced McClellan to move his supply base to City Point. And Lee found, in Stuart, someone he could rely on to confirm or collect intelligence.

According to Mr. Mewborn, one downside of the raid was that it popularized raiding. Many of the young cavalry officers, both North and South, came to believe a successful raid was the quick way to promotion and glory. Few seemed to realize the tremendous toll such raids took on men and horses. With the scarcity of horses throughout the South, the Confederate cavalry was particularly vulnerable to the exacting price of the long, arduous rides.

Students of the war will continue to debate the value of the Chickahominy ride, but had Stuart decided to turn back at Old Church, military history would have been denied a "wonderful exploit".



## GRAPESHOT



Dave Corbett and his tuneful "Battlefield Balladeers" will be making beautiful CW-era music at the Crete Public Library Saturday, Oct. 6th at 4 p.m.

Our good friends at the Milwaukee CWRT are celebrating their 60th Anniversary on October 20th by sponsoring a symposium. The event will feature talks by authors Tom Desjardins and Eric Wittenberg, and Kenosha Museum Curator Dan Joyce, and includes lunch. For more information, contact Lance Herdegen at (262) 210-6889 or herdegen@cc.edu.

Past-President Roger Bohn recently presented "A Day in the Life of a Civil War Soldier" at the DuPage County Historical Museum in Wheaton; and made a similar presentation at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn.

Bob Miller's book, *Both Prayed to the Same God. Religion and Faith in the American Civil War*, is now "out". On Monday, Oct. 22nd, at 7:15 p.m., Bob will be giving a presentation on the book at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center. For more information contact Bob at rjcmiller@mac.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

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.

### TOUR OF CHICAGO'S CW SITES!

Join the CWRT for a tour of Chicago's Civil War Sites on Saturday, October 27th. The tour will start at the Chicago History Museum at 8:45 a.m., and end about 4:15 p.m. The one day bus tour will include visits to the monuments at Rosehill Cemetery, Graceland Cemetery, Oakwoods Cemetery with its memorial to the Confederate dead of Camp Douglas POW Camp, and a visit to the Stephen A. Douglas monument and tomb. Parking is available at the lot north of the CHM, for a reduced rate. Experienced tour guide and past CWRT president Brooks Davis will lead the tour. The cost is \$45 per person and includes all fees plus lunch at the Fireside Restaurant.

Space is limited, so sign up soon! For registration or more information call Brooks Davis at (312) 654-0614 or Donna Tuohy at (312) 649-1041.

Due to space restrictions, the list of CWRT committee chairs will appear in the next newsletter.

## 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*.

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

Nov. 9: **John Simon**, Topic TBD

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

Jan. 11, 2008: **Ed Cotham**, "Civil War Marines"

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

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

April 11: **Jennifer Weber**, "Copperheads"

May 9: **Stephen Engel**, "Franz Sigel"

### Book Signing Doubleheader!

The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop will be holding an Interactive "virtual book signing" doubleheader on Saturday, Oct. 20th. At 2:00 p.m. they present Jason Emerson with the *Madness of Mary Lincoln*, and our own Father Bob Miller with *Both Prayed to the Same God*. At 3 p.m. they present Jack Hurst with *Men of Fire* (a study of the Fort Donelson Campaign) and Dr. Earl Hess with *Trench Warfare Under Grant and Lee*. To reserve your signed copies of these titles, or for more information, visit [www.VirtualBookSigning.net](http://www.VirtualBookSigning.net) or phone (312) 944-3085.