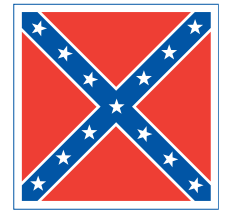


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September, 2005



## 643rd REGULAR MEETING

RICHARD McMURRY

ON

40 YEARS TO A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR THE CIVIL WAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, September 9

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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:*

*Roast Pork Loin.*

*Catch of the Day or*

*Vegetable/Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, September 5**, 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, September 7, 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.*

## Nevins-Freeman Address

### RICHARD McMURRY

- on -

## “40 Years to a New Framework for the Civil War”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The Nevins-Freeman Award, given every year by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, is named in honor of perhaps the two greatest Civil War historians of the mid-20th Century, Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman. The award honors lifetime achievement not solely in the scholarship of the war, but in addition that scholar's contribution to the Round Table movement. The first person awarded this honor was Bruce Catton in 1974. Other winners include Ed Bearss, James I. Robertson, T. Harry Williams and last year's awardee, Terry Winschel. That fine tradition is carried on by the Nevins-Freeman Award winner for 2005-2006, Richard McMurry.

Richard Manning McMurry first spoke to our Round Table 33 years ago, in December 1972, on “John Bell Hood”. Since then he has returned to Chicago several times, offering his always informed, often iconoclastic, and invariably amusing, observations on our Civil War. His talk on “40 Years to a New Framework for the Civil War” prom-



Richard McMurry

ises to puncture long-held misconceptions on the war, as well as explain what the initials “VD” truly stand for.

A native of Atlanta, Richard McMurry graduated from VMI with an A.B. in History, and earned his Ph. D. from Emory University. He taught history at Valdosta (Georgia) State College and North Carolina State University for 21 years. Since 1988 he has been a freelance writer and speaker as well as guide for many tour groups. Richard has authored several books and more than one hundred articles on various aspects of the Civil War. In 1994 two of his books—

*John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence* and *Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History*—were selected by Gary

Gallagher as among the one hundred best books ever written on the war. His latest book, *The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm*, was published in 2002. Mr. McMurry currently lives, and writes, in Roanoke, Virginia.



## Battlefield Preservation Update

BY ROGER E. BOHN

**The Battlefield Preservation Fund (BPF) Committee** of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago begins our fiscal year with a **Mission Statement**. It is our mission and our purpose to raise funds in order to “buy dirt and to educate”—in other words, we advocate fund-raising in order to preserve and protect battlefield sites in dire need of these efforts. We “educate” in order to raise the group’s consciousness in regard to the necessary steps we all need to take in order to preserve these very necessary parts of our national heritage.

The BPF Committee also “educates” *itself* in order to communicate and to stay abreast of current conditions and needs in various areas of the country. We do this with memberships in worthy organizations, tours and study groups in the areas, and personal contact with the groups and projects involved.

The BPF Committee regularly utilizes input from our knowledgeable members regarding worthy projects for our consideration. If you become aware—in your own travels or reading—of a site or effort “in need,” please contact one of the BPF members...Mary Abroe (Chair), Jerry Allen (the current Treasurer is an ad-hoc member), Roger Bohn, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Nancy Jacobs, Marshall Krolick, and Steve Stewart. The Committee currently includes five past presidents and has a combined total of *many* years experience in such preservation efforts.

In the past year, the CWRT’s battlefield preservation efforts include the following: Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield Foundation, \$500; SHAF (Save Historic Antietam Foundation), \$500; Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc, \$1000; CWPT (Civil War Preservation Trust) dues, \$500 (with an additional \$500 from an anonymous restricted donation); CWPT for Shiloh, \$1000; CWPT for Franklin, TN, per **Ed Bearss Award**, \$1000; Friends of Raymond, MS, per **Ed Bearss Award**, \$1000; Friends of Raymond, MS, \$300; Newtonia, MO BPA for “Ritchey Mansion,” \$500—for a total donation effort of \$6300 for 2004-2005. Not too shabby, as they say.

These funds came to us from members’ donations in various forms, subscribers to the Ed Bearss Preservation Award, the CWRT of Chicago’s general fund, Boutique sales, tape/CD sales, monthly book raffles, monthly silent auctions, a drawing for an art print, and even from bank interest.

**The Ed Bearss Preservation Award Update...**this award was established in 2001 to honor our long-time friend and to get needed funds directed to a worthy project—and who is more knowledgeable than Ed as to where that end might best be served? He certainly has the personal contacts and the on-site views of the various preservation priorities. Each year, Ed names the Award recipient and our \$1000 goes to that effort in Ed’s name with our congratulations. This is our way of saying “Thanks, Ed,” for leading our annual tours and for just being our friend!

Please note that in the above list of our donations, we had two \$1000 Awards this year. Since the Award had been over-subscribed, Ed named two recipients—and we still have some money left over for next year. Ed felt that \$1000 was “a nice tidy sum,” so it would be best to help two projects, rather than one getting the full amount. Any amount left-over from the “tidy sums” would just wait for the following year, and we even had \$250 come into the award fund *after* the Award announcement at Vicksburg.

This is also your invitation to individually honor Ed and to help battlefield preservation by contributing to the funding for this CWRT of Chicago award. Sign up, starting at the October general meeting and continuing through to the 2006 Spring Tour, *Manassas-Mosby*. You may also give your cash/check to any member of the BPF Committee, or **mail a check to:** BPF Chair, **Mary Abroe; 212 Woodbine Ave.; Wilmette, IL 60091-3332**. Remember that all individual contributors, of any amount, will be listed in the 56th Tour Program and in the following CWRT *Newsletter*.

**“The Civil War history and preservation community lost an outstanding leader in July in the**

## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
9670 N. Dee #205  
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016  
Phone: 630-460-1865  
[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).

**passing of Brian Pohanka,**” to quote Pete Jorgensen of *The Civil War News*. As one of the founders of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and as a past speaker for our Round Table, Brian made a real and lasting impression.

Jorgensen quotes Pohanka from an earlier interview: “It is highly immoral and anti-American and wrong for developers and their allies in county government to say they don’t care that hundreds or thousands of men died there or that it happened a long time ago and we should develop it and move ahead.” But it all came down to preserving the land...“I will do everything I can no matter how fatiguing, frustrating and stressful it is to save those few precious places that we have left,” he said. Brian will be missed.

**Saturday, September 17 is the Midwest Civil War Collectors’ Show**, Mid-West Conference Center, Northlake, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The Center is at the junction of North Avenue and Lake Street. For information, Bob “Hawkeye” Nowak, 608-884-3237; [info@mwcwcs.com](mailto:info@mwcwcs.com); [www.mwcwcs.com](http://www.mwcwcs.com).

**On this Day...**September 9, 1861, Lincoln ordered General David Hunter to St. Louis, Missouri, to “assist” General John C. Fremont—who was becoming a nuisance to Lincoln.

On this day, in 1864, newspapers reported that General George B. McClellan had accepted the Democratic nomination for President of the United States. ■

## JUNE MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On Friday, June 10th, Nathaniel C. Hughes gave an interesting speech titled "Tyree Harris Bell" at the 642nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Hughes, a resident of Chattanooga, Tennessee, is the author and editor of over 20 books on a variety of Civil War subjects, including the battles of Belmont and Bentonville and biographies of Generals Hardee and Pillow. His latest book, "Brigadier General Tyree H. Bell, C.S.A., Forrest's Fighting Lieutenant" (U. of Tennessee Press, 2004) was the inspiration for this presentation.

Tyree Bell was a 46-year-old farmer when the Civil War began in 1861. Bell lived in Sumner County, Tennessee, where he took a special interest in horses. He raised a company of the 12th Tennessee Infantry. Promoted to Lt. Colonel, Bell led the 12th at the Battle of Belmont, where he was slightly wounded. The tough, strong and healthy Bell led the regiment in a bayonet charge at the Battle of Shiloh. He suffered a severe chest wound in the charge, almost dying.

After recuperating from his Shiloh wound, Bell was promoted to full colonel. "Bell did excellent work at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky (August 29-30, 1862) as regimental commander," asserted Hughes. Army commander General Braxton Bragg detached Bell and sent him to western Tennessee to raise a new regiment of cavalry. In the summer of 1863 Bell recruited 2,500 men—a full brigade—resulting in his promotion to brigadier general. The brigade was placed under Forrest, and the two developed a bond of admiration and friendship during this period.

"Bell and Forrest had only one major argument. After Bell was wounded for the third time and lost an eye, Forrest demanded that Bell use an ambulance. Bell wanted to stay on the battlefield and they argued," explained Hughes. Bell greatly aided Forrest in raising and organizing Forrest's "critter company". Bell sought out deserters (a prime

source of recruits) with a vengeance. According to Hughes, "Bell had special leadership qualities to get the most of his men. By all accounts, Bell idolized Forrest, but Forrest has been represented as a supreme myth so that it is difficult to see Forrest as a person."

The reputations of Forrest and Bell have been forever tarnished by the atrocities at Fort Pillow. The Fort Pillow "massacre" was perhaps the defining event in their lives. Located on the Mississippi River about 50 miles north of Memphis, Fort Pillow was garrisoned by 572 Union soldiers, mostly "tories" (white Tennesseans) and blacks. On April 12, 1864, Forrest's troopers attacked and captured the fort. Many of the Union garrison (particularly the African-Americans) were shot down while trying to surrender or while fleeing from the fort, actions denounced in the northern press as cold-blooded murder. The commander of the Union forces, Major William Bradford, was captured and murdered with Bell's knowledge. "The bottom line was that Tyree Bell was the brigade commander. His responsibility was to exert his power to prevent the murder of Union soldiers. Bell did not! Neither did Forrest." A bewildered Hughes strongly proclaimed, "Why would a religious man [Bell] allow these murders to happen?" This event helped turn northern public opinion against southerners.

Perhaps the Battle of Brice's Crossroads (June 10, 1864) best illustrated the combination of mutually effective generalship of Bell and Forrest. In this battle Bell's cavalry broke the Union infantry with a sweeping attack into the middle of the Union column, and chased the routed Union army back to Memphis. An attack at the battle of Tupelo (or Harrisburg), July 14, 1864, proved less successful. There 7,000 Confederates attacked 14,000 Federals in a prepared position. Bell's cavalrymen, dismounted, attacked, attacked, and attacked again,

only to be slaughtered by artillery and small arms fire.

After the war Bell attempted to farm in Tennessee, but went broke and moved to California, where he established another farm and prospered. He died in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1902, after attended a Confederate veterans' reunion. Hughes concluded with this question: "Would you do it again, Bell?"



### CIVIL WAR COMMUNITY LOSES POHANKA, FOOTE

The CWRT lost two friends this summer.

As noted in the Battlefield Preservation Update, **Brian C. Pohanka**, a Civil War historian who advised filmmakers, preserved battlefields, reenacted troop movements and dressed the part, died of cancer June 15 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia at age 50. As an adviser and military coordinator on major motion pictures, including "Glory" (1989) and "Cold Mountain" (2003), he ensured the historical accuracy of films that would be seen by millions in theaters and on television. He worked as the senior researcher, writer and adviser on the 27-volume Civil War series by Time-Life Books. He also was series consultant for the History Channel's "Civil War Journal."

**Shelby Foote** died June 27, 2005 in a Memphis hospital at age 88. Foote is known to us all for his work on the Ken Burns 1990 PBS documentary on the Civil War, his comments "delivered in a drawl so mellifluous that one critic called it 'molasses over hominy'". An award-winning novelist, Foote's 3-volume *The Civil War: A Narrative* (1958-74) was described by the New York Times as "a remarkable achievement, prodigiously researched, vigorous, detailed, absorbing". As Ken Burns said, "He made the war real for us."

## GRAPESHOT



**Ted Karamanski**, Professor of History at Loyola University and author of *Rally 'Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War*, will be speaking Wednesday, Sept. 14th, at the Blue Island Park District's September Civil War Round Table. For more information, phone Annie Anderson, Blue Island Park District, (708) 388-3872.

“The Rail Splitter—A Journal for the Lincoln Collector”, is holding a “Lincoln and the Civil War” auction to subsidize its activities. Visit their website at [www.railsplitter.com](http://www.railsplitter.com) for more information.

**Robert “Bob” Schell**, a long-time member of the CWRT of Chicago, lost his wife, Molly to heart failure Aug. 19th. Molly underwent by-pass surgery many months ago and never fully recovered. Our sympathies to the Schell family.

As many of you know, CWRT Vice President (and all-around good guy) **Steve Stewart** has been battling cancer for some time. Steve is currently in a 100-day rehab period, living in a quarantined environment Call Steve at (630) 629-7800—he'd love to chat, except when a White Sox game is on tv!

At the May meeting, member **Thom Nicholson** gave away 24 autographed copies of his new Western novel, *Ride the Red Sun Down*, in exchange for a donation to the 36th Illinois Flag Restoration Project. \$141.00 in contributions were collected for this worthy cause.

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

## SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: The Civil War Round Table History. Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters. Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. There is also a book raffle, with proceeds again going to benefit battlefield preservation.

## SILENT AUCTION

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 OFFICERS  
FOR 2005-2006

President – Bob Miller

Senior VP – Nancy Jacobs

First VP – Roger Rudich

Second VP – Steve Stewart

Treasurer – Jerry Allen

Asst. Treasurer – Rae Radovich

Secretary – Tom Trescott

Asst. Secretary – Donna Tuohy

Trustees – Tom Postema, Bob Stoller, David Zucker, Mary Beth Foley, JoEllen Kowalski, Russell Lewis, John Van Dellen, Bob Carlson

Tour Registrar – Rae Radovich

Dinner Registrar – Bill Sullivan

Inspector Generals – David Zucker, Tom Trescott

Field artist – Jerry Warshaw

Field photographer – Hal Ardell

Webmaster – Bill Sullivan

Newsletter editor – Bruce Allardice

Contributing editors – Mary Munsell Abroe, Roger E. Bohn, Larry Gibbs

A list of 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*.

**September 9:** Nevins-Freeman Award  
Address: **Richard McMurry**, “40 Years to a New Framework for the Civil War”

**October 14:** **Ed Bearss**, “The Most Forgotten, Misunderstood & Least Appreciated Civil War Battles and Soldiers”

**November 11 (Veteran's Day):** **Edward Bonekemper III**, “A Victor Not a Butcher—U.S. Grant's Overlooked Military Genius”

**December 9:** **Stephen Fratt**, “Civil War Tactics and Technology”

**January 13, 2006:** **Round Table Panel Discussion** (Panel: Bruce Allardice, Rob Girardi, Larry Gibbs; Chair: Mary Abroe) “The Most Significant ‘What-Ifs’ of Civil War History”

**February 10:** **James McPherson**, “Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief”

**March 10:** **Gail Stephens**, “Lew Wallace”

**April 21 (3d Friday, due to Holy Week):** **Horace Mewborn**, “John S. Mosby”

**May 12:** **George Rable**, “Fredericksburg in the Larger Civil War Universe”

**June 9:** **Mark Noll**, “How the Bible Helped Start the Civil War”

OCTOBER DINNER  
FREE TO GUESTS

Our friend and battlefield guide, **Ed Bearss**, will be our speaker next month, to celebrate the 65th Anniversary of the CWRT of Chicago. As part of the celebration, the CWRT is offering a 2-1 deal—any member who brings a guest to that meeting, that guest gets their dinner **FREE**. An Ed talk AND a free meal—it's a great opportunity for members to introduce their friends to our Round Table!