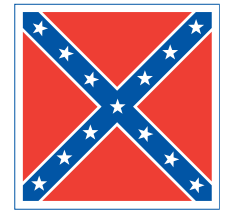


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVI, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 2006



## 650th REGULAR MEETING

HORACE MEWBORN  
ON

JOHN MOSBY AND  
HIS RANGERS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Friday, April 21**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**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 Casriel.*

*Catch of the Day.*

*Vegetarian Plate*

*or Fruit Plate*

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, April 17**, 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, April 19, 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.*

## HORACE MEWBORN

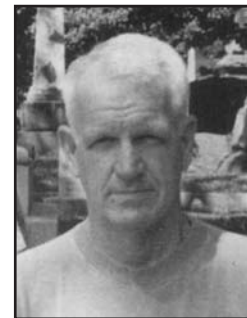
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### “John Mosby and His Rangers”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

John Singleton Mosby. The most glamorous, the most publicized, and the most effective “partisan” warrior of the Civil War. Areas of northeastern Virginia, within spitting distance of Washington D.C., were known as “Mosby’s Confederacy”, so dominated by the raids of his rangers that no Union wagon train felt safe while there. Historian Bruce Catton called him “a minor genius, highly effective in partisan warfare.” Jeb Stuart, who thought most partisan bands ineffective and more addicted to thievery than fighting, excepted Mosby’s rangers from the rule, and often relied on Mosby’s information in planning his raids. Perhaps Mosby’s most spectacular wartime exploit was the capture of Union General Edwin Stoughton in March, 1863, seizing Stoughton in his bed and spiriting him away under the noses of Stoughton’s men.

On April 21st historian Horace Mewborn will talk on “John Mosby and His Rangers.” During this talk he will provide background information on Mosby, and discuss Mosby’s strategy and tactics. He



Horace Mewborn

will then talk about some of the men who followed him.

**Horace Mewborn** is a native of North Carolina. After graduating from Campbell College he served seven years in the U. S. Army, five of those years in Special Forces assignments, and 2-1/2 years in Vietnam. After leaving the army, he graduated from East Carolina University, and entered the F.B.I. Among his assignments with the F.B.I. were tours of duty in New York City, Washington, D.C., and F.B.I. Headquarters. He has authored five articles for *Blue and Gray Magazine*, including three articles [“The Operations of

Mosby’s Rangers” (Spring 2000-Fall 2001)] about the operations of John Mosby and his Rangers. He is the co-author of 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.” Mewborn currently resides in New Bern, N.C.



## Battlefield Preservation Update

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

**CWRT Receives Thanks for Donations:** The Civil War Round Table has received notes of gratitude from several preservation organizations to which we contributed recently. From David Weems of the Newtonia (Missouri) Battlefields Protection Association (NBPA) came the following for our membership dues and additional donation to help pay down the debt on the Ritchey Mansion: "Many thanks for your...donation of \$500. Your allotment of \$400 to help pay off loans is the first money given to us for that purpose. It is a good omen and we hope others will join toward the goal of retiring the debt we incurred to obtain the Ritchey Mansion. It is always good to hear from our friends and to know that people far away, like you, are interested in our struggle to preserve the history of what happened at Newtonia during the Civil War."

Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) expressed his thanks for our membership renewal, with our dues of \$500 voted by the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee and an additional, restricted \$500 from an anonymous donor allowing us to renew our CWPT membership at the \$1,000—or "Color Bearer"—level: "I cannot thank you enough for your continued support for battlefield preservation! Your generosity this past year helped the Civil War Preservation Trust save 1,708 acres of Civil War battlefield land in 2005 alone. Your generous gift of \$1,000 speaks volumes to your continued commitment to preserving that ground where our history was made. You directly have helped CWPT to save more than 23,000 acres of hallowed ground. I hope you are as proud of that fact as I am."

Another letter from Jim Lighthizer, received in early March, informed members of the Civil War

Round Table of Chicago that our organization will be acknowledged, along with other individuals and groups, for our commitment to the preservation mission of the CWPT: "...I am writing to tell you about our program to publicly recognize lifetime generosity for battlefield preservation, and how this program relates to you. We are all familiar with well-publicized lists such as the 'Fortune 500' or the 'Forbes 400'....Last year, the Civil War Preservation Trust created our own list, not only to recognize those individuals who have made large gifts, but also to show our appreciation to those stalwart, dedicated and loyal friends who have shown their commitment over many, many years of generous support. That's why we have created our own list—The CWPT 250—to publicly recognize those individuals and organizations whose record of lifetime generosity places them in a class all their own. It is my pleasure to inform you that this year you are a member of this august group."

Because the Civil War Round Table has qualified for the "CWPT 250," our organization will be acknowledged publicly during the CWPT's upcoming annual conference in Memphis and listed with other honorees in the summer 2006 issue of *Hallowed Ground*, the CWPT's quarterly publication. As Mr. Lighthizer concluded his congratulatory letter: "This is our way of saying 'Thank You' to our most dedicated supporters on this scale. I cannot tell you how much I am looking forward to this, and how much I appreciate all you have done to advance our noble cause."

Finally, we received a note of gratitude from Joseph Carr, director of the Jefferson County Historical Society in Madison, Indiana, for our organization's gift of \$500 in memory of past president and battlefield tour

## 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).

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enthusiast Gordon Whitney; Gordon was a longtime volunteer at that institution. Half of the donation came from the Round Table's general fund and half from the Battlefield Preservation Fund. Mr. Carr stated the following: "Thank you very much for the recent gift in memory of Gordon Whitney. We were very fond of Gordon; he was a fine fellow and we're fortunate to know him. He would appreciate your generosity—just like we do."

**CWRT and BPF Committee Thank Our "Tapes Guru" and Benefactor Hal Ardell:** In the foregoing spirit of noting gratitude, we want to thank CWRT member and tapes librarian Hal Ardell for his ongoing gift of time and talent to benefit battlefield preservation. As many members know, Hal tapes our speakers' talks and then offers those tapes to interested members for a contribution to our Battlefield Preservation Fund. What many may not know is that Hal donates his time and considerable expertise as well as his own costs in the taping process to support our Preservation Fund. His generosity of spirit sets an example for us all. Thanks, Hal, for all that you do to save our Civil War battlefields.

## MARCH MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On March 10th Gail Stephens gave an enthusiastic and provocative speech entitled "Lew Wallace: Controversial Civil War Soldier" before 86 members and guest of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Ms. Stephens, a retired intelligence analyst from Maryland, has volunteered at Monocacy National Battlefield Park. At Monocacy she became interested in Union General Lew Wallace, whose efforts there "saved" Washington D.C. from capture in 1864. Wallace's exploits at Monocacy fueled her interest in Wallace's alleged poor performance at the Battle of Shiloh in 1862. Ms. Stephens has written two magazine articles in *North & South* on Wallace, and is currently writing a biography of the general.

"General Lew Wallace is a much more complex story and personality than previously thought," Stephens began. Although Wallace and his division have been criticized for being "lost" on the first day of Shiloh, Stephens asserted, "Wallace was not a victim of Shiloh, but rather became a victim of war within the high command of the Union army!"

The early war career of Wallace, an Indiana native and "political" general, was successful. According to Stephens, Wallace (a brigade and division commander) deserved more credit than he received at the Battle of Fort Donelson in early 1862, but Union General U. S. Grant gave his friend C. F. Smith, a West Point graduate, most of the credit.

On the morning of April 6th, 1862, the Confederates launched a surprise attack on Grant's main line at Pittsburgh Landing. Wallace and his division were stationed several miles north of the Landing. Grant issued a verbal order to Wallace. A quartermaster captain wrote down Grant's message and two other staffers handled the message before Wallace received it. Stephens explained,

"Wallace's chief of staff lost the order, so we'll never know what the order said." Later Wallace claimed that Grant ordered him to join the Union right flank, and the Shun Road led there. After receiving criticism for the large number of casualties at Shiloh, Grant later claimed he had ordered Wallace to come directly to the main army over the River Road, the most direct route to Pittsburgh Landing. Shortly before he died, Grant admitted he had given verbal orders which were perhaps misinterpreted during the chaos of combat. However, Wallace has been stigmatized for his "lost" division ever since.

After pausing a half-hour for lunch, Wallace started to move down the Shun Road at noon. At 2:30 p.m. Wallace got a message from a courier ordering him to move back to the River Road, then march directly to the battlefield. Wallace and his division backtracked to a four-mile farm lane leading to River Road. The terrain had deeply-eroded ravines and swollen streams. Stephens insisted, "I maintain that they [Wallace and his division] made quite good time for what they had to do!" As a good historian, Stephens followed this route last fall, walking the 16.7 mile route that Wallace took. She braved the many terrain hardships that Wallace encountered on April 6th. Stephens explained, "Lew Wallace could not have made it to the battle in time!" The next day Wallace's division helped to push Confederate forces back and secure a Union victory.

Wallace's reputation suffered from these allegations, and his career was quietly shelved. In 1864, President Lincoln gave Wallace a command of Delaware and Maryland. In May, 1864, Robert E. Lee sent General Jubal Early and 15,000 Confederates through the Shenandoah Valley to threaten and, if the opportunity arose, take Washington D.C. On July 9, 1864, Wallace and a ragtag army of

6,000 soldiers fought Early's advancing forces at the Battle of Monocacy. Wallace's men performed effectively, delaying Early for a day and allowing Grant the time to rush reinforcements to save the capitol.

After the war Wallace served in a variety of high-ranking positions, including a stint as Governor of the New Mexico Territory and Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire. He is perhaps best remembered as the unlikely author of *Ben Hur*, a best-selling novel that has been made into several movies. To summarize, Stephens concluded, "Wallace was perhaps a victim of prejudice against political generals by West Pointers. He was also a victim of his fatal errors and mistakes. Wallace started too late on April 6... Wallace was a victim of Grant's inexperience; Grant should not have given a verbal order, but should have written the order himself!"



### ATLANTA CAMPAIGN CONFERENCE

The Jefferson County CWRT of Madison, IN is hosting a Civil War conference on the Atlanta Campaign at Clifty Falls State Park on April 21-23, 2006. Speakers include Richard McMurry; the one and only Ed Bearss; John Marszalek; Jim Lewis from Stones River NBF; Jim Ogden, historian at Chickamauga-Chattanooga NMBF; and Willie Johnson, historian at Kennesaw Mountain NBF. The conference fee is \$140 and includes some meals. For more information please visit their website at: [www.windhill.com/civilwar](http://www.windhill.com/civilwar)



### CIVIL WAR COLLECTORS SHOW

The Civil War Collectors Show & Sale returns to the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton this April 15th, with thousands of items on display. Hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is \$6.



## GRAPESHOT



The DuPage County Historical Museum is sponsoring a day trip to the Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield on Saturday, April 22nd. Reservations are required by April 8th. For more information, call (630) 682-7343 or go online at [www.dupageco.org/museum](http://www.dupageco.org/museum).

Biographer and theologian David P. Bridges will talk about his book, *Fighting with JEB Stuart: Major James Breathed and the Confederate Horse Artillery*, at a lunch at the University Club of Chicago on Thursday, April 20, at noon. Books will be available at the event from the Book Stall in Winnetka. For reservations phone (312) 696-2208; or email [holloway@ucco.com](mailto:holloway@ucco.com).

On Wednesday, April 19th, the Blue Island Park District's Civil War Round Table will be sponsoring a dinner get together with General and Mrs. George H. Thomas (our own Jerry & JoEllen Kowalski). Dining starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Memorial Park Fieldhouse, 12804 S. Highland Avenue, Blue Island, IL. For more information, contact Annie Anderson, Blue Island Park District, at (708) 385-3304 or go online at [www.blueislandparks.org](http://www.blueislandparks.org).

CWRT member Oscar Walchirk will be speaking on "Jewish Soldiers and Sailors in the American Civil War" at the Horwich Jewish Community Center in Chicago on April 17th, and at the Northwest Suburban Jewish Congregation on April 23rd. For more information, contact Oscar at (847) 256-7805 or email him at [gfw401@aol.com](mailto:gfw401@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](mailto: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.

### TOUR SHUTTLE INFORMATION

Battlefield tour co-Chairman bus Jim Nethery reminds us about the "Supershuttle" from the local airports to our tour hotel:

#### Important general information:

SuperShuttle operates 7 passenger vans on a shared-ride basis. To obtain the lowest available fare, you must travel in groups of two or more.

The first passenger pays full price and the others in the party, going to or from the same destination pay a much lower rate. Reservations are not necessary going from the airport to the hotel.

Reservations ARE necessary going from the hotel to the airport, AND SHOULD BE MADE AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE. For information call 1 800 BLUE VAN (258-3826) or, from within area code 703, call 703 416-6661. The tour buses will NOT be available to transport people to the airport on Sunday.

Major credit cards are accepted on board. The approximate fare to or from Dulles is \$26.00 for the first person in the party and \$9.00 for each additional person in the party. Fares from Baltimore-Washington and Reagan National Airports are much higher.

Our hotel is the Holiday Inn, Manassas Battlefield, 10800 Vandor Lane; Rte 234 & I-66. 703 335-0000.

## 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*.

April 21 (3rd Friday, due to Holy Week): **Horace Mewborn**, "John S. Mosby"

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"

### CIVIL WAR SYMPOSIUM IN CRYSTAL LAKE

The McHenry County, Northwest Illinois and Lake County CWRTs are sponsoring a Civil War Symposium Saturday, May 13th, at D'Andrea Banquets, Rt. 14 & 31 in Crystal Lake. Speakers include **Terry Winschel**, **Richard Brady Williams**, and our own **Larry Hewitt** and **Bruce Allardice**. The symposium includes lunch and starts at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$40 for members of any CWRT who pre-register, and \$50 at the door. For more information, phone (815) 923-1910 or email [eurban@mc.net](mailto:eurban@mc.net).