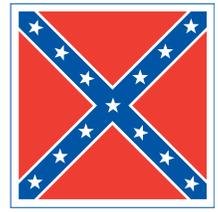


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVIII, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

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## 657th REGULAR MEETING

KURT CARLSON

ON

### BACKING THE BOYS: CHICAGO BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN THE CIVIL WAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, Jan. 12

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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 Marinara.*

*Catch of the Day.*

*Vegetarian Plate or*

*Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Jan. 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, Jan. 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.*

Kurt Carlson

on

## “Backing the Boys: Chicago Business and Industry In The Civil War”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Chicago was considered a "city of wonder" in the mid 1800s, an energetic place whose personality expressed, in author Theodore Dreiser's words, "throb and urge and sting ... a compound of hope and joy in existence". In 1860 Chicago was already thought of as the "Queen of the Lakes", a business hub, the fastest growing metropolis on the continent.

Chicago entered the Civil War just as energetically. This "sink hole of abolitionism", as some southerners called it, contributed thousands of its sons to the Union army. The war also accelerated the growth of Chicago business, with contracts for war supplies stimulating its business development. With its industry, its central location, its access to railroad and other transportation, Chicago became a major Union army supply base, laying the groundwork for (among other things) its future reputation as "hog butcher to the world".

On Jan. 12th Kurt Carlson will examine the support local busi-



Kurt Carlson

ness gave to the boys in blue. In his research Kurt has discovered the beginnings of some enterprises that are still around. Some of these enterprises were well operated and gave good value to the government and the troops. Others, sadly, used political influence and contacts to make a fast buck (imagine that in Chicago!). There were even some that operated on the wrong side of the law. But all did their part, or at least claimed to, in backing the boys that had gone off to war.

Kurt A. Carlson is well known to CWRT members as past president (1993-94) of The CWRT. A 1971 summa cum laude graduate of DePaul Law School, Kurt moved to DuPage County in 1972 and has been a practicing attorney there ever since, specializing in real estate and domestic law.

Kurt has spoken to many of the Round Tables in the Chicago area and elsewhere, and is active as a past president (1985-87) of the Salt Creek CWRT. A long-suffering fan of the Fighting Illini, Kurt now resides in Wheaton.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

**Harpers Ferry:** People who love and support Battlefield Preservation are waiting to see what happens to the developers who invaded Harpers Ferry last summer. Will that developer get away with it or will the Federal Government respond in such terms that will prevent anyone from doing this kind of thing ever again? The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is hoping for the latter and is joining with both the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), and the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), to urge "consideration of both civil penalties and criminal sanctions" against the people responsible. CWPT spokesman Jim Campi said the word is that the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Park Service (NPS) were to declare their plan for legal action "some time in November."

"Our sources indicate they intend to send a very tough message," according to Campi. "they don't want this to happen again." NPS spokesman David Barna said that officially the agencies are deciding whether or not to file civil charges only or criminal charges as well. "I think we're pushing for criminal charges but that's a big deal."

Over the weekend of August 19-20th, developers who own tracts of land on or adjacent to the battlefield dug a trench approximately 2,000 feet long, across property that is part of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The developers installed sewer and water lines. Attempts by park rangers and an Interior Department lawyer to stop them were unsuccessful. CWPT spokesman Campi said that with the utility lines in place, the developers could win increased housing density to more than 3,500 homes. CWPT joined the NTHP and the NPCA to send a letter to Interior Secretary Kempthorne arguing for a stern response. The letter mentioned that Jefferson Utilities, representing the

developers, "knowingly subverted" the NPS process for a special permit. In fact, the park had already begun the special permit process by asking for public reaction, and the comments received overwhelmingly expressed concerns about allowing the work to be done.

However, the developers bypassed the process when they went in anyway, at a time when the park was busy with other events. "It is outrageous that Jefferson Utilities knowingly sabotaged this ongoing review process by taking the law into its own hands and simply bulldozing the trench," the letter said.

The digging took place on the 38 acre Perry Orchard tract, which had recently become part of the park. The three organizations sending the letter, the CWPT, the NTHP, and the NPCA, had all worked to preserve the property and bring it into park ownership. The developers have argued that a utility easement gave them the right to install lines regardless of any federal laws.

The letter to Secretary Kempthorne went on to say, "If the Harpers Ferry violations are not vigorously prosecuted in response to [the developers] blatant disregard of the reasonable and routine NPS permit process, this would send the message that the NPS will 'turn a blind eye' in the event of similar violations on National Park land throughout the Nation, opening the door to further illegal destruction of our priceless heritage. Americans rightly expect that the National Park Service's unique and irreplaceable landscapes will be protected from wanton destruction. We encourage federal and State law enforcement officials to pursue these violations to the fullest extent of the law, and we stand ready to help in any way possible." The three page letter concluded with a request by the three groups to participate as "consultive parties" in the Federal Review Process. The letter is signed

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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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by CWPT President Jim Lighthizer, NTHP President Richard Moe, and NPCA President Thomas Kiernan.

A brief response came from Joseph Lawler, director of NPS's National Capitol Region. NPS is "extremely concerned" about the incident, Lawler said, adding "While the National Park Service respects the property rights of the easement holders, the courts have recognized that NPS must protect the cultural and natural resources owned by all Americans." Lawler said the NPS was "actively reviewing the matter with the Department of Justice and considering options for an appropriate response."

This writer doesn't usually make subjective statements in this column, but I can't refrain from saying how outraged I am that such disrespect for the legal process has taken place. People preach about law and order, but if they do they cannot discard law and order whenever it is inconvenient for them to observe it.

**Slaughter Pen Farm:** On October 16th, Interior Secretary Kempthorne announced at a news conference that the Federal government will kick in 2 million dollars toward preserving the 208 acre property. The news conference was sponsored by the CWPT. CWPT spokesman Jim Campi said that the level of interest in the purchase of the farm was almost unprecedented.

## DECEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On December 8th David P. Bridges gave an interesting speech on "Fighting with Jeb Stuart: Major James Breathed and the Confederate Horse Artillery" at the 656th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Bridges has earned degrees and economics and theology. After studying American history at the University of Chicago, he has written several books on the Civil War, including the recently published *Fighting with Jeb Stuart: Major James Breathed and the Confederate Horse Artillery*, the book that provided the source of this presentation. Major Breathed is the great uncle of Bridges, who used previously unused primary sources to enhance his relative's story.

When the Civil War began, James Breathed was a 21-year-old Maryland physician. After a chance meeting with Jeb Stuart Breathed was encouraged to join Stuart's 1st Virginia Cavalry. Stuart transferred Breathed to the Stuart Horse Artillery. Breathed soon was promoted to major, and usually commanded a battery of horse artillery which included four cannon, their caissons, and ten mounted artillerymen for each cannon. "A regiment of horse artillery was the weapon of mass destruction in the Civil War," asserted Bridges, "because the horse artillery could fire or counter-fire fast with tremendous power!"

Breathed became a respected and trusted artilleryman for Stuart and for Stuart's leading artillery officer, major John Pelham. According to Bridges, Breathed, the survivor of 86 separate engagements and battles, has deserved much more publicity and attention for his heroic exploits. Bridges then explained several of these unbelievable events in his Civil War career.

At the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg Breathed was positioned on the Confederate right flank. To help stem a major Union attack, Breathed had his cannon fire over the head of John Pelham and

Pelham's cannon. Breathed's courage and coolness under fire was strong and firm. Stated Bridges, "The support of Breathed for Pelham at the Battle of Fredericksburg was tremendous. He was the embodiment of all that was courageous and heroic!"

Another example of Breathed's bravery occurred on May 8, 1864, at the Battle of the Wilderness. In this battle Breathed placed his guns to line up two rows of Union soldiers on a knoll. His four cannon slowed the Union advance, delaying it so that Confederate reinforcements could win the race to Spotsylvania Court House. Breathed led his men into the jaws of battle, to within 75 yards of the Union lines. Three horses were shot from under him. Determined to save a cannon from capture, Breathed mounted a fourth horse, rode through heavy enemy fire, and saved the cannon. An artilleryman in Breathed's command acknowledged the strong bond of love and respect between Breathed and his men.

Seeing his "Overland Campaign" stall, and wishing to give Phil Sheridan a chance to make good on his (Sheridan's) promise to whip Jeb Stuart's cavalry, Gen. U. S. Grant sent Sheridan's cavalry corps on a raid around Robert E. Lee's flank. Stuart followed with a much smaller force, and at the Battle of Yellow Tavern (May 11, 1864) fought Sheridan's raiders. Outnumbered in both cannons and men, Stuart placed Breathed in charge of a force of cavalry and ordered Breathed to control the Telegraph Road at all costs. "If this road is taken we are lost," Stuart told his young subordinate. Embroiled in a swarm of Federal cavalrymen, Breathed received a pistol shot in the side and a saber blow to the head. A Union officer dragged him to the ground, but Breathed escaped. After mounting a horse Breathed galloped through the

Union lines, with a head gushing blood. Nearby Stuart was shot and mortally wounded while waving his saber in defiance. Breathed rallied his cavalrymen to save Stuart's ambulance from being captured. Stuart died the next day.

Bridges continued, "Men are to be judged by circumstances in which they are placed; hesitation means defeat. Breathed knew what to do on every battlefield. He was a brilliant, self-taught tactician. According to General Lee, Breathed was as fine an artilleryman as the south produced." Shortly before the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox, Major Breathed killed two Union soldiers and, as Union forces converged on him, mounted his horse and made yet another escape.

In summary, Breathed exemplified the finest characteristics of a soldier. Bridges proclaimed Breathed "a heroic paradox; a doctor who served and fought valiantly for the Confederacy. Breathed was a loyal man who embodied a bulldog tenacity. His leadership was unprecedented in Civil War Records. His memory has faded until now." As an admiring Robert E. Lee later observed, "If we were all of the order of men like James Breathed, we would never have been a subjugated people."

### Call For Papers

The Council on America's Military Past (CAMP) is calling for papers for its 41st Annual Military History Conference to take place May 9-13, 2007, at the Clarion Hotel, Hampton, Virginia. Papers on the Civil War will be emphasized. Interested parties should send their talk topic (20 minutes) to CAMP '07 Conference Papers, PO Box 1151, Fort Myer, VA 22211-1151. Phone (703) 912-624 or email [camphart1@aol.com](mailto:camphart1@aol.com) for more information.

## GRAPESHOT



**Brooks Davis**, CWRT ex-president, gave a talk on "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln as Commanders in Chief" at the 21st Annual Lincoln Colloquium held at the Chicago History Museum. CWRT ex-President and Abraham Lincoln bookshop owner **Dan Weinberg** also spoke at this colloquium.

**Larry Hewitt** gave two talks in November "down south": "Lee's Finest Hour" to the New Orleans CWRT, and "James B. Eads" to the Baton Rouge CWRT.

CWRT members **Larry Hewitt** and **Bruce Allardice** have just signed a contract with the University Press of Kentucky for a book on Kentucky's Confederate generals. They are in the process of soliciting expert contributors to write biographical essays on each of the generals. The manuscript is due to the publisher in late 2007.

**Mike Kauffman**, our September speaker and co-guide for our CWRT's Spring Battlefield Tour, will be speaking to the New Orleans CWRT Jan. 17th, to the Austin CWRT Jan. 18th, to the Western North Carolina CWRT March 12th, and to the Surratt Society Conference March 31st.

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.

## PEA RIDGE GETS GUNS

The Pea Ridge NMP received delivery of two new reproduction 6 pounder cannon this summer. According to Steve Black of the NMP, the 40-year-old park had never owned a cannon it could use for firing demonstrations for the public. The new cannon, a bronze and an iron Model M-1841, were fired by a gun crew consisting of workers from the park's Resource Management division.

## TOUR REMINDER

Sign up forms for the CWRT's Spring Battlefield Tour of Washington D.C. will be distributed at the January 12th meeting, and mailed to members with this 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.*

Jan. 12, 2007: **Kurt Carlson**, "Chicago During the Civil War"

Feb. 9: **Dan Paterson**, "A Longstreet Pictorial History"

March 9: **Pete Cozzens**, "The Valley Campaign"

April 13: **Robert E. L. Krick**, Topic to be determined

May 11: **Rebecca Cumins**, "Battlefield Preservation"

June 9: **John Coski**, "The Confederate Battle Flag"

## Movie on 5th New York Being Filmed

One of the legacies of the late historian and preservationist Brian Pohanka is being filmed in Maryland and Virginia: a full-length feature movie on his beloved 5th New York Zouaves. Titled "Red Legged Devils" in reference to the colorful Zouave uniforms the regiment wore, the movie will trace the regiment's experiences through the eyes of a fictional enlistee. Pohanka wrote some of the dialogue before he died. Pohanka's widow, Cricket Bauer-Pohanka, is the film's executive producer.