



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVII, Number 7

Chicago, Illinois

March, 2007



## 659th REGULAR MEETING

PETE COZZENS

ON

### A LESSON IN PATRIOTISM— AMBROSE BIERCE'S CIVIL WAR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, March 9

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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 Casserole*

*Catch of the Day*

*Vegetarian Plate*

*or Fruit Plate*

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Mar 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, Mar. 7, 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 \$8 with a validated parking sticker.*

Pete Cozzens

on

## “A Lesson in Patriotism— Ambrose Bierce’s Civil War”

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

Ambrose Bierce was among the most enigmatic men of letters of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. He evolved his own brand of short story. His plots were often unusual and abnormal, with cruel and ironic motifs, yielding some of the most terrifying and hauntingly suggestive stories in American literature. In the era of bitter personal journalism that followed the Civil War, his caustic wit and courage quickly brought him recognition, and he became one of William Randolph Hearst’s most feared reporters.

His greatest works, *Tales of Soldiers and Civilians*, which transcended mere realism to yield Civil War stories even more chilling, and *Can Such Things Be?*, weird stories of the supernatural that roused terror and pity, marked the perfection of his power of style. All of which flowed from Bierce’s experience on the battlefields of the Western Theater of the Civil War.

On March 9th Peter Cozzens will



Pete Cozzens

trace Bierce’s war record, liberally interspersing his talk with quotes from Bierce’s own unique perspective on the war.

Peter Cozzens is a Foreign Service Officer with the U. S. Department of State and author of fourteen books on the Civil War and Indian Wars of the American West. He has spoken to our Round Table several times. Two of his books, *This Terrible Sound: The Battle of Chickamauga*, and *The Shipwreck of Their Hopes: The Battles for Chattanooga*, were Main Selections of the History Book Club and were chosen by Civil War Magazine as

two of the 100 greatest books ever written on the conflict. The Washington Times calls his books "battle history as it was meant to be written."

Cozzens has just completed a manuscript on Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign that will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in the spring of 2008.



## Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

Gettysburg Casino (or the lack of it): the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board on December 20, 2006, granted five licenses, none of which was for the casino that had been proposed for Gettysburg. Preservation groups that had fought the casino proposal for nearly two years were quick to praise both the Board and its decision. Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President, James Lighthizer, said, "It was a great day for Gettysburg and for preservationists throughout the nation." He thanked the Board for recognizing that "Gettysburg and gambling don't mix." Lighthizer said that the license denial was, "The most significant battlefield preservation victory since the defeat of Disney's proposed theme park at Manassas in the early 1990's."

CWPT joined with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Parks Conservation Association to form the Stop The Slots Coalition. CWPT took the lead. "We'd gotten a lot of feedback from our members who were extremely upset about this," said CWPT spokesman, Jim Campi. "We felt the kind of development the casino was going to spawn was going to make further preservation at Gettysburg difficult if not impossible."

CWPT also hired an expert on fiscal analysis "To rebut the ridiculous economic promises," of the developer according to Campi. The National Parks Conservation Association commended the Gaming Control Board saying, "They clearly understand that a casino would be at odds with the family-friendly atmosphere of the town and with the sacred nature of this place of sacrifice and service for our country."

**Beauvoir:** on January 9th, bids were opened for restoring

Beauvoir House the residence of Jefferson Davis during the last twelve years of his life. In August 2005, the house was badly damaged, after being pounded by hurricane Katrina. Beauvoir fared better than other structures considering the damage and destruction of most Biloxi's coastal historic houses, in that it was still standing after the hurricane. But the front gallery was destroyed, part of the roof is gone and the rear gallery collapsed as a result of the storm. Business manager Rusty Trowbridge said he has no idea what the bid range will be, and that he wouldn't speculate on how many millions of dollars the repairs will cost. "It's going to be put back the way it was when the Davises lived here as much as possible," Trowbridge promised.

Trowbridge said major interior work will have to be done and some of the house will have to be dismantled. The grounds of the 51 acre property were cleaned up with the help of more than 900 volunteers, who donated thousand of hours of work. The gardens, library pavilion, Confederate museum, replica barracks and the director's home, were destroyed. The Presidential Library was damaged. The Mississippi Department United Sons of Confederate Veterans owns the property and welcomes all donations. These may be sent Beauvoir, 2244 Beach Blvd, Biloxi, Miss. 39531. Further information may be had by calling (228) 338-4400.

**Monitor:** on March 9, 2007 the new USS Monitor Center will open at the Mariners' Museum in Newport News Virginia. The opening date will mark the 145th anniversary of the Monitor's battle with the CSS Virginia. Visitors will have their first stop in a room which recreates the sinking of the Monitor on December 31, 1862. The visitors will be made to feel like they are on

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

the doomed ironclad that night and that they are in the middle of the storm. Visitors are then shown how parts of the wreck were recovered.

From there visitors are shown naval technology of the pre-ironclad era. Visitors are then taken out on the deck of Norfolk's Gosport Navy Yard where they will see a reconstruction of the CSS Virginia, as it is rebuilt from the USS Merrimack. The next locale transports visitors to a Washington D.C. conference room in 1861, where the U.S. Navy Ironclad board needs a ship designed. The conference table is equipped for an interactive game called Design an ironclad. The next stop is arguably the best on the tour, the battle theatre. In this room, a 13 minute and 10 second audio-visual presentation takes place, narrated by actress Salome Jens. This immerses the visitors in the March 8-9, 1862 Battle of the Ironclads.

The next stop is the living quarters of the USS Monitor, where a recreation of the officer quarters is shown. At the next stop, the Peninsular Campaign is shown, as is a gallery which will feature shows on a rotating basis. The final stops show how the Monitor's turret was recovered and the conservation lab. Craig Symonds is the center's chief historian. Call (800) 581-7245 for more information.

## FEBRUARY MEETING

BY TOM TRESMOTT

On February 9, 2007, William D. Paterson spoke at the 658th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on "A Longstreet Pictorial History". The great-grandson of the still controversial Confederate General James Longstreet, Paterson gave a visual history (via power point) of his distinguished family, based mostly on a scanned family photo album of 75 images of the General, his wife, and descendents, and many of Longstreet's comrades and opponents. In fact, 40% of the album consists of photos of Civil War generals.

Paterson began his presentation by informing The Round Table that James Longstreet had ancestors of note. His grandfather, William Longstreet (1758-1814) was an early proponent of steam power, and his uncle, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet (1790-1870) was an accomplished lawyer, judge, and educator. And while there are no direct descendents left with the name Longstreet, the family tree contains many other names of note. Julia Dent Grant, the wife of friend, foe and classmate U.S. Grant, was a fourth cousin of "Lee's Old War Horse", and Mary Ann Dent Longstreet was his mother. Longstreet married Maria Louisa (Louise) Garland, the daughter of Lt. Col. John Garland, an important officer of a distinguished Virginia family. The novelist Ben Ames Williams is a Longstreet descendent.

Paterson covered Longstreet's early military career: his first posting at Jefferson Barracks, his bravery under fire at Molino Del Rey and Chapultepec (where he

was wounded), his command at Ft. Bliss and other installations, and his staying at his post as paymaster in Albuquerque until all accounts were settled before resigning his commission to cast his lot with the Confederacy. But the personal photos were the substance of the evening. The earliest known photograph of Longstreet is of him as Brigadier General. There were also many images of "Old Pete's" brothers in gray: Robert E. Lee, Moxley Sorrel, George H. Pickett (in civilian garb, taken the year he died), D. H. Hill, James W. Ratchford, Thomas J. Goree, Raphael J. Moses, James B. Walton (who, not E. P. Alexander, was his artillery chief) and Peyton Manning (no, not that one). In discussing his ancestor's staff, Paterson reminded the Round Table that at The Wilderness Longstreet, like Stonewall Jackson, was hit by friendly fire and was lucky to survive, though his right arm was partially paralyzed. Micah Jenkins, who was with Longstreet at the time, did not survive the incident, and his photograph was included as well.

Other images of note included: Louise Longstreet with two of the children; Grant, "Old Pete's" friend and post-war supporter; unknown federal officers (who were they and why were they saved?); Longstreet in New Orleans in 1868, before he got in trouble there; Longstreet at Gettysburg reunions, where, in contrast to his "pariah" status in the South, he got along well with the old Union veterans, including his fellow "outcast" Dan Sickles; a photograph of Longstreet's

funeral, showing it to be well attended, so perhaps he was not as universally loathed in the South after all; and a photographic chronicle of the efforts to get the Longstreet monument established at the Gettysburg battlefield.

Paterson also brought to the attention of the Chicago audience that Longstreet had at least twice visited our city. Once for the dedication of the Confederate monument at the site of Camp Douglas in 1895, and once shortly before his death in 1904 to seek treatment on his cancerous eye. And the images of Helen Dortsch Longstreet, the General's second wife (Louise had died in 1890), were especially poignant. Helen represented her husband at reunions and memorials through the years, worked tirelessly to restore Longstreet's image and preserve his memory, and lived long enough to be a "Rosie the Riveter" working on B-29s. Overall, this meeting was an inspiring example by Mr. Paterson of "keeping the flame" and of how family history and American history are intertwined.

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### PATERSON THANKS CWRT

After returning to Virginia, Dan Paterson, our February speaker, wrote the following to the Round Table: "Thanks so much for the medalion and bag. I appreciate the opportunity to share what it was like 'growing up Longstreet'. Special thanks to Nancy Bates for driving and the wonderful tour."



## GRAPESHOT



**Rob Girardi**, CWRT past president, spoke at the Rochester, Minnesota CWRT Feb. 21st on "The Soldiers View".

CWRT past president **Roger Bohn** recently spoke to the ROTC unit at Wheaton College in Wheaton. He demonstrated the loading and firing of the Model '61 Springfield rifle musket, and explained how this weapon changed the tactics of warfare.

**Brooks Davis** is the newest member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission's Speakers' Bureau. Brooks joins more than 30 Lincoln experts listed in the Speakers' Bureau, which includes Pulitzer Prize and Lincoln Prize winners. The ALBC website is at [www.lincoln200.gov](http://www.lincoln200.gov).

CWRT Executive Committee member **JoEllen Kowalski** and her husband recently spoke on "Politics and Clothing" at the Beacon Hill Senior Center in Lombard.

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.

### BOOK SIGNING

On Thursday, March 29th, at 6:30 p.m., *Virtual Book Signing* will debut an important new book about the April, 1862, Battle of Shiloh. The late Dr. O. Edward Cunningham of the University of Tennessee prepared the manuscript of *Shiloh and the Western Campaign of 1862* under the tutelage of the legendary historian T. Harry Williams. For years the manuscript has been used as an essential reference by rangers at the Shiloh Military Park. Now Professors Timothy Smith and Gary Joiner have teamed up to edit Cunningham's manuscript, adding over 30 maps, illustrations and other material. Smith and Joiner will broadcast their book signing live at [www.VirtualBookSigning.net](http://www.VirtualBookSigning.net). The editors will concurrently sign books in person at Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 357 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago.

Our scheduled May speaker, **Rebecca Cumins**, has had to cancel on us due to a family illness. Many of us remember Becky from our battlefield tour of Manassas-Mosby. We all hope her mother gets better and that Becky can come speak to us some time soon.

## 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*.

**March 9:** Pete Cozzens, "A Lesson in Patriotism—Ambrose Bierce's Civil War"

**April 13:** Robert E. L. Krick, "A True Story of Brother Against Brother: The Terrill Generals of Virginia."

**May 11:** To Be Determined

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

**Sept. 14:** Nevins-Freeman Address—Horace Mewborn, topic TBD

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

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

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

Our own **Brooks Davis** has been in the hospital recently for a surgical procedure to relieve his chronic migraines. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Beverly Rasmussen, mother of CWRT member **Jan Rasmussen**, passed away recently.

**Armchair Generalship**  
by Marshall D. Krolick

Benjamin, Marcus, *Washington During War Time*.

Bishop, Jim, *The Day Lincoln Was Shot*.

Brandt, Nat, *The Congressman Who Got Away with Murder*.

Brooks, Nancy Growald, *Arlington House* (National Park Service Handbook).

Busch, Richard T., *Civil War to Civil Rights*.

Chamlee, Roy Z., Jr., *Lincoln's Assassins*.

Cooling, Benjamin Franklin, *Jubal Early's Raid on Washington 1864*.

Cooling, Benjamin Franklin and Walton H. Owen II, *Mr. Lincoln's Forts*.

Cooling, Benjamin Franklin, *Symbol, Sword, and Shield*.

District of Columbia Civil War Centennial Commission, *Study in Patriotism*.

Forman, Stephen M., *A Guide to Civil War Washington*.

Fowler, Robert H., *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln* (Eastern National magazine).

Furgurson, Ernest B., *Freedom Rising*.

Goodrich, Thomas, *The Darkest Dawn*.

Grieve, Victoria, *Ford's Theater and the Lincoln Assassination*.

Hinkel, John V., *Arlington*.

Holzer, Harold and Frank T. Williams, *Lincoln's Deathbed in Art and Memory*.

Jacob, Kathryn Allamong, *Testament to Union*.

Judge, Joseph, *Season of Fire*.

Kauffman, Michael W., *American Brutus*.

Kauffman, Michael W., "Booth's Escape Route: Lincoln's Assassin On the Run," *Blue and Gray*