



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVII, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April, 2007



660th REGULAR MEETING

ROBERT E. L. KRICK

ON

THE TERRILL BROTHERS
OF VIRGINIA

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday, April 13

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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 Vesuvio.

Catch of the Day.

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, Apr. 9**, 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, Apr. 11, 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.

Robert E. L. Krick

on

"A True Story of Brother Against Brother: The Terrill Generals of Virginia"

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The idea of "brother fighting against brother" is one of the most popular aspects of the Civil War. To think of siblings literally at war against each other has provoked a melancholy fascination among generations of Civil War enthusiasts. Such things happened in the 1860's, certainly, though perhaps not as often as sentimentalists might think.

Most instances of families fractured by the war occurred in border states, or in regions with sharply divided loyalties. On April 13th Robert E. L. Krick will highlight an especially poignant case of one such fractured family. James B. and William R. Terrill, both from the solidly Confederate state of Virginia, each received a military education in the antebellum years, the

one at VMI, the other at West Point. Each rose to the rank of brigadier general during the war, but served in different armies, fighting for different causes. Each died in battle, leaving behind a shattered family, but pro-



Robert E. L. Krick

ducing a classic, high-profile example of "brother against brother."

Robert E. L. Krick has lived or worked on Civil War battlefields almost continuously since 1972. He grew up on the Chancellorsville battlefield near Fredericksburg, and graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg with a degree in history. He has worked in various historical capacities at several battlefields, including Custer Battlefield in Montana, and Manassas Battlefield. Since 1991 he has been an historian on the staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park.

Mr. Krick is widely published on Civil War topics. His first book was a unit history (*The Fortieth Virginia Infantry*). In 2003 the University

of North Carolina Press published his biographical register of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff officers (*Staff Officers in Gray*). He is now at work on a study of the Battle of Gaines's Mill.



Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee Met in February: The BPF committee of the CWRT met on February 17, 2007. All members in good standing of the CWRT are invited to attend BPF meetings. BPF committee members present were M. Abroe, N. Bates, L. Gibbs, R. Girardi, J. Kowalski, R. Radovich, and D. Zucker; M. Krolick was absent. Minutes are as follows:

- 1.) Approval: new memberships in Save the Franklin Battlefield, Inc. (\$250), Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Assn., Rochester, Minnesota (\$50), and Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (\$250)
- 2.) Approval: renewal of current membership in the Save Historic Antietam Foundation (\$250)
- 3.) Approval: donation to the Monitor Campaign of the Civil War Mariners' Museum (\$250)
- 4.) Decision to request (from the CWRT Executive Committee) a \$10,000 infusion (in unrestricted funds) from the CWRT general fund for the Battlefield Preservation Fund to support current and future battlefield preservation projects nationwide [N.B. The CWRT Executive Committee, at its subsequent meeting, approved a \$5,000 infusion (in unrestricted funds) from the CWRT general fund into the Battlefield Preservation Fund.]
- 5.) Decision to request (from the CWRT Executive Committee) approval of a "BPF contribution line" on CWRT membership applications and yearly dues renewal forms [N.B. The CWRT Executive Committee, at its subsequent meeting, approved the addition of a line allowing future membership applicants and renewing members to give an optional donation to the Battlefield Preservation Fund.]

CWRT Receives Thanks for Contributions: Within the past month we received two letters of gratitude from Jim Lighthizer, president of the Civil War Preservation Trust. The first one thanked the CWRT for our memorial donation in honor of Margie Riddle Bearss: "I would like to personally thank you for your recent gift of \$1,000 ... in honor of Mrs. Margie Bearss. The family will be notified of your thoughtful gift. I so appreciate

the fact that Margie Bearss understood the importance of protecting our nation's Civil War battlefield sites as outdoor classrooms in order to preserve history and to honor the memories of those who fought and died on these sites. Today I honor Margie as a fellow worker in making this happen."

In the second note, Lighthizer expressed his thanks for our recent membership renewal, with our dues of \$500 voted by the BPF 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: "Thanks to your continued generosity, this past year CWPT was able to take on a land preservation opportunity I would not have thought possible 5 years ago—Slaughter Pen Farm. ... Friends, thank you for your tremendous support in creating a permanent legacy for future generations!"

What Will Happen to Mississippi's Coker House? The March/April 2007 issue of *Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, features the Coker House near Champion Hill battlefield as a "case study in how a preservation effort can go wrong." As those CWRT members and guests who visited the house on an early 1990s battlefield tour know, the house was constructed in 1852 and served as a field hospital for both Union and Confederate troops during the battle of Champion Hill. Today a National Historic Landmark and still bearing bullet holes and cannon ball damage sustained during the battle, it is empty and in extreme disrepair.

When the Jackson Round Table owned the Coker House, it engaged in a national fundraising effort to try and save the structure, and with monies thus raised the Round Table paid for some basic work that "bought [the house] some time," but it was not enough. With the property's title conveyed to the state in 2000, the legislature voted \$200,000 to stabilize it; bids on the project superseded the amount appropriated, however, so the funds were spent elsewhere.

As late as November 2005,

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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

Jim Woodrick (a member of the Jackson CWRT and a review and compliance officer at the state Department of Archives and History) thought that at least the house's exterior—the facade is intact—would be restored by his department, using part of a \$6.2 million federal transportation enhancement grant. But the bureaucracy continued to move at a snail's pace and, "countless meetings and a slew of paperwork and planning" later, nothing has been accomplished to stop the Coker House's ongoing deterioration. At this point in time, with estimated costs of \$1.3 million for restoration and transformation of the house into a museum, the earmarked funds in the \$6.2 million grant are inadequate. And the final irony is as follows: "...dismantling the house might be beyond the state's finances as well. The initial bid for deconstruction, \$446,000, was considered too high." So the Coker House sits and waits—and its deterioration becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The article quotes Ron Stowers, current treasurer of the Jackson Round Table, as indicating that the possible loss of the Coker House "is heartbreaking. We did what we could to keep it up, and finally were able to transfer it to the state so it could be restored. That was the intent of transferring it to them, that they would take good care of it. But it never got off the drawing board." As for former Mississippi governor William Winter, chairman of the Archives board, his forecast is bleak: "I expect it will be taken down."

MARCH MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On March 9th Peter Cozzens spoke on "A Lesson in Patriotism—Ambrose Bierce's Civil War" before 96 members and guests at the 659th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Cozzens, author of 14 Civil War and Indian War books, is a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State. He is one of the great young historians who have spoken to many Civil War Round Tables. The presentation featured the bitter, sardonic author Ambrose Bierce, and indicated how Bierce's traumatic experiences in the Civil War shaped his writing style of ironic twists and haunting war-time memories.

Cozzens began, "Of the rich Civil War literature of diaries, journals and memoirs, Ambrose Bierce was one of the best. He captured scenes and emotions of battlefields better than most." Bierce wrote Tales of Soldiers and Civilians, a compilation of 15 short stories that illustrated the soldiers' perspective. The harsh realities of corruption and a sense of slaughter were exposed by Bierce's pen.

Bierce was 19 when he enlisted in the Union Army at Elkhart, Indiana, in 1861. His 9th Indiana Infantry first "faced he elephant" in Western Virginia in 1861. By April, 1862 Bierce was a sergeant, when his regiment went into a battle that became a life-changing experience—the April 6-7, 1862 Battle of Shiloh.

What Ambrose Bierce found at Shiloh were soldiers bloodied, wounded, and terrified. According to Bierce, the air was electric with deep emotions of he wounded. No ostentation and no celebration existed. Bierce described the scene of dead horses and corpses everywhere. He

described a soldier facing upwards, alive with snorts of life after a bullet creased his forehead.

On the second day of the battle the 9th Indiana repulsed several attacks. As the forest flamed up, many Confederates fell like ten pins. Some died in the fire in the hollow, swollen to double girth with bloated and blackened faces. Others had a hideous grin of death on their visage. Traumatized by this battle, Bierce considered this scene the most important event in his life. Shiloh shaped his view of life and death; his writing reflected the randomness and dark nihilism of the battlefield.

During the remainder of the Civil War Bierce served mostly as a topographical engineer. His unit fought at the Battles of Perryville, Stones River, and Chickamauga. However, only Shiloh became etched into his memory; everything after Shiloh was anticlimactic.

Aside from Shiloh, his regiment perhaps performed best at Stones River. There the 9th Indiana fought in the Round Forest, standing firm for hours under heavy fire. Bierce stood behind Colonel William Hazen, whom Bierce described as "The best hated man I ever knew!" After the battle Bierce, overcome by emotion, cried like a baby. Hazen recommended that Bierce be promoted to first lieutenant, and Bierce kept that rank for the rest of the war.

With the vagaries of war, Bierce recognized that eventually his luck would run out. On June 23, 1864, he was ordered to take part in a pointless attack on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. Feeling lonely with a premonition of disaster, Bierce got shot in the left side of his head, fracturing

his temple. Invalided to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for recuperation, he recovered and returned to the army that September, gathering captured cotton for the rest of the war.

Bierce considered his journalistic career as a poor substitute for his service as a soldier. He had little regard for the Reconstruction Era (1865-77). Falling into despair, he disappeared in Mexico in 1913 (a disappearance made into a novel and movie, "The Old Gringo"). The Civil War, especially the Battle of Shiloh, had claimed another casualty.

DUPAGE SHOW

The DuPage Civil War Show is coming again to the DuPage County Fairgrounds this April 21st. For more information visit http://www.zurkoantiquetours.com/cival_war_show.htm

MIKE COHN

Former CWRT President (1977-78) Myron "Mike" Cohn passed away March 8 in Phoenix from congestive heart failure. He would have been 90 years old in a few days. Remembrances can be sent to Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower St., Phoenix, AZ 85014.

An interview with our own Muriel Underwood was published in the March, 2007 newsletter of the Caxton Society, the Caxtonian. Muriel has been a freelance book designer, and for many years helped publish our newsletter.

GRAPESHOT



Larry Hewitt of our CWRT will be addressing the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter, Sons of Confederate Veterans, in Houston April 16th on "Lee's Finest Hour: Campaign of May 1864".

CWRT ex-president Bill Sullivan spoke to the Beverly Ridge Lions Club on March 29th on "The Civil War Historian as Detective...The Case of Several Dogs That Did Not Bark."

Mark May 12th on your calendar. It's the date of the annual symposium of the Northern Illinois and McHenry County CWRTs. Speakers will include Iron Brigade historian Lance Herdegan, Sultana disaster author Gene Salecker, and author Ray Mulesky. For more information, contact Charlie Banks at cmbanks14@comcast.net or phone him at (847) 497-3149.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States will conduct the 51st annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony at Oak Ridge Cemetery this April 14th. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., and will feature wreath-laying on the tomb, and remarks by noted historian (and longtime CWRT member) Harold Holzer. A luncheon will follow the ceremony. For more information, contact Alan Loomis, (219) 464-1332, arlsuvcw@aol.com, or Jerry Kowalski at paptom@msn.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

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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the CWRT, made up of past presidents, has put together the following slate of officers for the forthcoming 2007-2008 year:

Roger Rudich, President
 Jerry Allen, Senior Vice President
 Tom Trescott, First Vice President
 Rae Radovich, Second Vice President
 Robert Stoller, Treasurer
 Brian Seiter, Assistant Treasurer
 Donna Tuohy, Secretary
 Marybeth Foley, Assistant Secretary

Trustees, terms to expire in 2009: Jim Cunningham, Sonya Reschly, Cheryl Cooke, David Zucker

Trustees, terms to expire in 2008: Robert Carlson, JoEllen Kowalski, Paulette Whitte, John Van Dellen

The election for 2007-2008 officers will be held at the May meeting. Any member can make nominations from the floor at that meeting.

A FEW TOUR SPOTS LEFT!

There's only a few spots left for our 2007 Battlefield Tour to Washington D.C. Registration forms are attached. Sign up now!

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

May 11: Cricket Bauer Pohanka, "Battlefield Preservation"

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"

Bud Hall

James "Bud" Hall, one of the most authoritative scholars on the Lincoln assassination, passed away Feb. 26 at his Mclean, Virginia home. He was the author of numerous articles and co-authored Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln in 1988.

Allatoona Pass Monument

Funds are currently being raised for a monument to the Illinois soldiers at the Battle of Allatoona Pass. Contact Ray Wozniak, (440) 656-7452 or Tom Gaard, (515) 226-1961, for more information.

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago



Will honor Edwin C. Bearss with our sixth ***Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award***

This award was established to present \$1000 annually to whatever project, person, or preservation effort that Ed deems worthy. Ed is certainly the most qualified person we know to recognize specific areas that urgently need a "helping hand," and we honor our most esteemed tour guide by making this award in Ed's name.

The award will also tell the Civil War Round Table "community" that our Round Table cares enough to put forth an effort at preserving, in whatever fashion it may take, our national heritage. Each year Ed will name the award recipient and the money will go to that effort in Ed's name with our congratulations. It will be presented on our 57th Annual Tour, "Wartime Washington and the Booth Escape Route."

This is our way of saying, "Thanks, Ed, for the forty years of guiding our tours...and for just being *our friend!*"



This is also your invitation to individually honor Ed by contributing to the funding for this CWRT award! Sign-up at any meeting before the tour or give your cash / check to any member of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee.

...Or mail check to: BP Treasurer, Mary Abroe; 212 Woodbine Ave.; Wilmette, IL 60091-3332 (Make check payable to: CWRT Chicago; put "Bearss Award" on the memo line.)

All individual contributors, of any amount, will be listed in the tour program & the newsletter.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE of Chicago - Annual Tour #57 - May 2-6, 2007

NOTE: Mothers Day is Sunday May 13, so there is no "conflict."

War-time Washington, D.C. & the Booth Escape Route

Wednesday May 2, 2007

Gather at the **Holiday Inn-Express**; 6401 Brandon Ave.; Springfield, VA; **703-644-5555**

Directions: I-95 south (from D.C.), towards "Richmond;" exit #169B...stay right, onto Brandon Ave., to 2nd largest tower on the right. www.hiexpress.com/springfieldva
If you are flying, **Reagan Airport** is nearby. We suggest the convenience and economy of taking a taxi to the hotel...no shuttle/limo service to the hotel need be, or will be, provided. **Note:** *Dinner Wednesday night is **not** included in the Tour package.*

Thursday May 3 (Breakfast is included)

We will begin at **Fort Ward**, Alexandria, Virginia, with a tour of the grounds. This is one of the many forts built in a ring around Washington, D.C. for its protection. It is the most complete reconstruction of a D.C. fort. Our next stop is **Fort Foote**, Maryland. It was the last of the city's defenses to close at the end of the Civil War.

Old Fort Washington, Maryland is next on the agenda. Lunch will be on the picnic grounds there, at the Old Fort Washington Pavilion.

We then tour **Walter Reed Army Hospital Medical Museum**. The extensive Civil War exhibits include Dan Sickles' leg and the 44 caliber bullet that Booth fired into Lincoln's head. **Battleground Cemetery**, and then to **Fort Stevens**—where Lincoln was told to "get down you fool, before you're shot," as he viewed Early's raid into Washington City. *This was the battle that saved Washington!*

Next, **Fort DeRussy** and the earthworks there. Finally, the **African-American Monument**. From there, to the Command Post (cash bar) and dinner at the newly opened (November 2006) **National Museum of the Marine Corps**. *Our tour will have **private use of the Museum and the exhibits after dinner**.* Included are the interactive exhibits such as the rifle range and the aircraft simulator. The Gift Shop will be open. The Museum is adjacent to the Marine Corps base at Quantico, Virginia.

Friday May 4 (Breakfast is included)

Ed will begin with a walking tour of **Lafayette Square**, including a view and interpretation at the **White House**, the "**Dan Sickles site**," the **War and Treasury Departments**, and the **Sherman Monument**. (Ed says there will be a "rest stop," too.)

We will have a box-lunch at the Lady Bird Johnson Grove in D.C.

Then, we continue on to **Mount Olivet Cemetery** in D.C., for a brief stop.

The "**Anderson/Lincoln Cottage**" and the **Old Soldiers Home** grounds are next. This was the Lincolns' refuge, away from the very-public White House, and it was here that Lincoln completed the last draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was here, also, that Mary Lincoln found solace after the 1862 death of her son, Willie.

Interpretive stops at **Grant** and **Garfield Monuments**, then **Lincoln Memorial**. The **Congressional Cemetery** is our next site.

We end the day at the **Navy Yard Museum**, with a tour and a view of the bridge that Booth used to cross into Maryland after he shot Lincoln...and where his body was returned for its "final disposition."

Command Post (cash bar) and dinner at our base, Holiday Inn, Springfield, VA. **Ed Bearss** will be the speaker after dinner.

Saturday May 5 (Breakfast is included)

We begin the ***Booth Escape Route*** at **Ford's Theater**, where we will tour the Museum and the **Peterson House**. We will also visit **Baptist Alley**, where Booth had his horse waiting. The buses will then take us to the **Surratt Tavern Museum** in Clinton, Maryland. We will proceed to, and then tour the **Dr. Mudd House and Museum**, Waldorf, Maryland.

Lunch will be at Cap'n Billy's Crab House, Popes Creek, Maryland.

We move on by **St. Mary's Church and Cemetery**, the **Samuel Cox House**, and the **Pine Woods Thicket**. We drive-by "**Huckleberry**" and **Dent's Meadow** on the way to the **Loyola Retreat House**, where Booth had a boat hidden for his crossing of the Potomac River. The spectacular view gives a perspective to the seemingly simple task of "just rowing across the river."

Rest stop at the Maryland Visitor Center.

We have an interpretive stop at "Cleydael," the **Richard Stewart** home, and on to **Port Royal**.

We end the Escape Trail at the **Garrett Farm** location, where Booth met his end.

Command Post (cash bar) and dinner at the Holiday Inn, **Fredericksburg, Virginia**. We will have our usual Fun Night activities, and **Mike Kauffman** will be our speaker to sum-up the day's Escape Route. The buses will return us to our base hotel in Springfield, Virginia.

Sunday May 6 (Breakfast is included)

The buses will take us into **Arlington National Cemetery**, and we will visit **Arlington House**. We will also visit the **Tomb of the Unknowns** and witness the **Changing of the Guard**.

Lunch is scheduled for **1:30 PM**, back at our base hotel in Springfield, Virginia (near the Reagan Airport). *We have arranged for one bus to shuttle our group leaving from Reagan Airport—it will leave no earlier than 2:00 PM—and details will be included in the Newsletter and on the Tour. Please schedule your flights accordingly if you want to participate in Sunday's activities.*

◆ Unforeseen circumstances may force changes to this planned schedule. ◆