



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



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Chicago, Illinois

May, 2007



661st REGULAR MEETING

CRICKET BAUER POHANKA
ON
BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

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Friday, May 11

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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:

London Broil

Catch of the Day

Vegetarian Plate

or Fruit Plate

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, May 7** 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, May 9, 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.

Cricket Bauer Pohanka on Battlefield Preservation

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

When our Round Table goes on its annual battlefield tours, we all enjoy the presentations of Ed Bearss and our other tour guides. We soak up the scenery and visualize the battle as only one who's "been there" can do. As Ed has rightly said, there is no substitute for actually walking the battleground. But preservation of these historic sites doesn't just happen. It takes work, and dedication, and money. The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) estimates that nearly 20 percent of America's Civil War battlefields have already been denied forever to future generations. Of those that remain, only 15 percent are protected by the Federal government.

On May 11th Cricket Bauer Pohanka returns to the Midwest to report on the activities of several preservation groups, including recent victories and ongoing challenges.

As a resident of both the Midwest and the Mid-Atlantic, she has actively sought new perspectives on preservation, particularly to make it relevant to those not in direct proximity to the affected historic sites. She supports a number of exciting



Cricket Bauer Pohanka

educational initiatives aimed at creating the next generation of preservationists.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Cricket Bauer Pohanka's interest in history was sparked by exposure to literature, the arts, and local historic places. After attending schools in Wisconsin and Minnesota, she obtained a Master's Degree in Costume History from the University of Maryland, and pursued a career in museums. She is the former curator/registrar at the University of Maryland Costume Collection, the DAR Museum, and Gadsby's Tavern - Museum - in

Alexandria, VA. She has been a member of Civil War Preservation Trust's Board of Trustees since April of 2007. Cricket's current projects

include producing a movie about the 5th NY Volunteer Infantry (Duryee's Zouaves), editing and publishing the remaining manuscripts of late husband (Brian Pohanka), and active participation in the Civil War Preservation Trust.



Battlefield Preservation

BY DAVID ZUCKER

The country's most threatened Civil War Battlefields got an airing on March 13th, when the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) released its annual endangered battlefields list at a news conference held at Washington D.C.'s National Press Club.

The list, titled "History Under Siege: A Guide to America's Most Endangered Civil War Battlefields", identifies this year's 10 most threatened sites and another 15 sites around the country.

At the conference CWPT President James Lighthizer said: "the Civil War was the most tragic conflict in American history. For four long years, North and South clashed in hundreds of battles and skirmishes that sounded the death knell of slavery. Nearly 20% of America's Civil War battlefields have already been destroyed—denied to future generations." Joining Lighthizer at the news conference were former Texas Congressman Charlie Wilson, whose ancestor served in the First Alabama, and former New York Congressman Bob Mrazek, a civil war novelist. Both former lawmakers expressed support for federal funding to preserve battlefields.

CWPT helped protect 1,300 acres of battlefield land in 2006. Since its founding two decades ago the organization has preserved 23,500 acres at 90 sites in 18 states. The most threatened sites currently are:

Cedar Creek in Virginia. "The threat to Cedar Creek is as dire and immediate as any faced at a civil war battlefield." According to CWPT, a mining company is seeking to rezone 639 acres from agricultural use to "extractive manufacturing". The land, adjacent to Cedar Creek and Belle Grove, is at least 60% of the battlefield.

Fort Morgan, Alabama. "Today the once formidable Fort Morgan has fallen into significant disrepair," states the CWPT report. Last year the Alabama Historical

Commission, which owns the site, hatched a plan to increase the inadequate staff and begin repairs to storm damage. But significant state funding will be required.

Gettysburg. CWPT noted that while a plan to build a casino near the battlefield has failed, "development pressures on the Gettysburg battlefield continue unabated." Plans for thousands of new homes could increase the population of Adams County by 30%.

Harper's Ferry, West Virginia. Last August, without notifying authorities, developers dug two 1,900 foot long trenches through park land in order to bring water and sewerage to proposed developments. So far no charges have been brought by the U.S. Justice or Interior Departments.

Iuka, Mississippi. The intersection of U.S. Route 72 and State Route 25, located in the core battlefield of Iuka, is "a hotbed for development in the region," according to the CWPT. Fortunately, the Iuka Battlefield Commission has saved 57 acres in recent years, and is looking for more opportunities.

Marietta, Georgia. Major sections of trenches and fortifications throughout Cobb County, Georgia are unprotected. The CWPT says the growth of suburban Atlanta "has all but destroyed the possibility for preservation opportunities in the eastern half of the county, and time is running out" for earthworks in the western part. While preservationists have saved some earthworks near Dallas Highway and Brushy Mountain, others remain at risk, and some have even been bulldozed "to avoid complications that could scare away developers".

New Orleans. 18 months after Hurricane Katrina, the future of Civil War forts that once defended New Orleans remain uncertain. Fort Jackson sat submerged under 6 feet of water for 6 weeks, undermining its structural integrity. Fort Pike also suf-

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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.

ferred major damage, sustaining gaping cracks in its outer walls and losing relics that washed up as far as 40 miles away. Both forts are eligible for federal funding, but "it is unclear whether all necessary work can be accomplished before the damage is irreparable."

Northern Piedmont. Energy companies are meeting to build 500 kilowatt power line through portions of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, impacting as many as seven battlefields. The proposed towers would stand up to 15 stories high. Battlefields such as Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville could be affected.

Petersburg. Last year's findings of the Federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission call for an increase in the size of Fort Lee, an army installation adjacent to the Petersburg battlefield. This greatly increased size is expected to complicate preservation efforts in Petersburg.

Spring Hill, Tennessee. Expansion of the Nashville and Franklin suburbs "is eating away at large portions of the Spring Hill battlefield."

At risk sites includes places such as Newtonia, Missouri; the defenses of Washington D.C.; Fort Monroe, Virginia; and Manassas, Virginia. The full report can be read at the CWPT's website, www.civilwar.org.

APRIL MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On April 13th Robert E. L. Krick gave an interesting and poignant presentation titled "A True Story of Brother Against Brother: the Terrill Generals of Virginia" to 89 members and guests at the 660th regular meeting. In his introduction Marshall Krolick described Krick as "one of the foremost young historians of today." Bob Krick is the historian at Richmond National Battlefield Park. Among the books written by Krick is Staff Officers in Gray, a biographical encyclopedia of the staff officers of Robert E. Lee's army. The usual Civil War story of brother against brother is trite, romanticized, and untrue. Krick brought to life a true, and truly memorable, story, of the Terrill brothers of Virginia.

The Terrill brothers of Bath County, Virginia, symbolized the political and sectional split that could also split families, most notably when Confederate cavalryman "Jeb" Stuart led troops against his father-in-law, Union General Philip St. George Cooke. Future Confederate general James Barbour Terrill attended the Virginia Military Institute, the "West Point of the South". He graduated in 1858, and became a lawyer. His older (and more studious) brother William Rufus Terrill was totally different from his younger brother. William was handsome and charming, an above average student who graduated from West Point and served in the prewar army. Tall, husky and bearded, William had the "appearance of a soldier". The men under his command perceived him as an earnest, faithful soldier due to his strong convictions. Southerner William, who taught math at West Point, remained loyal to the Union in 1861, possibly due to the influence of his new wife, a Philadelphia lady. Whatever the reason, William remained true to his convictions for the short remainder of his life.

Allegedly, he requested service out west, so that he wouldn't have to fight in his home state and against his family and friends.

At the beginning of the war James Terrill was elected major of the 13th Virginia Infantry, a compliment perhaps to his military education. At first, his men called him "Major Terrible", but by 1864, the soldiers praised his enforcement of discipline. James always wore a blue uniform, an old VMI habit. Near-sighted, he always needed an officer to be near him to point things out, but the handicap didn't seem to mar his battlefield performance. Unflinchingly brave, he claimed "I never think on such occasions (in battle) about being killed."

In September 1862, William Terrill was promoted to brigadier general. He led his new brigade at the Oct. 7, 1862 Battle of Perryville, where a fragment of a shell hit him in the chest. Mortally wounded, he died a day later. His remains were interred at West Point's cemetery.

James Terrill survived two more years. By 1864 he had survived numerous battles, and was leading (as colonel) a Confederate infantry brigade. Near Cold Harbor on May 30, 1864, Terrill's brigade was ordered to make an assault. This attack was his first brigade assignment. Krick explained what happened next: "In leading the charge James Terrill rose to his feet, waved his sword to move forward, and was immediately shot dead in the head. The Confederate attack was repulsed." On June 1, 1864, James Terrill was promoted to brigadier general, 12 hours after he died.

An apocryphal story developed around the Terrill brothers. As the story goes, their father had the bodies of both brothers re-interred on the family farm under one marker. The marker was said to

read: "This monument was erected by their father. God alone knows which (son) was right." Krick stated that this story is false—the alleged marker has never been found, and there's no evidence that James' battlefield grave was ever disturbed. However, the true story of the Terrill brothers needs no embellishment. Krick concluded, "The Civil War was about brother against brother from time to time. When you visit the battlefield of Cold Harbor and Perryville, please spare a thought about the Terrill brothers!"

A recording of this (and every) meeting is available from Hal Ardell, audio librarian. Contact Hal at (773) 774-6781 or hal229@ameritech.net

CWPT ROUND TABLE OF THE YEAR AWARD

During its April, 2007 conference, "To the Gates of Richmond", the Civil War Preservation Trust announced the winners of its annual preservation awards. According to the Trust, "these awards were created to honor individuals and organizations for their exemplary dedication to the cause of Civil War preservation." President Jim Lighthizer presented the awards on Saturday evening, April 21, and the winner of the "Civil War Roundtable of the Year" award is the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. On hand to receive this honor on behalf of the Chicago Round Table was past president Mary Abroe. This is a proud moment in the history of our Round Table: it means that we are standing up and being counted among the devoted men and women who fight to preserve our irreplaceable Civil War heritage.

GRAPESHOT



On April 17th CWRT member and Nevins-Freeman Award winner **Gordon Dammann** gave a talk at the Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, IN titled Civil War Medicine—An Overview.

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 Mulefsky. For more information, contact Charlie Banks at cmbanks14@comcast.net or phone him at (847) 497-3149.

"Civil War Days" is coming to **Naper Settlement**, 523 S. Webster St. in Naperville, May 19-20th. The historic museum village is transformed into a Civil War encampment where visitors can talk to soldiers, President Lincoln and other figures from the past, and Red Cross founder Clara Barton (portrayed by CWRT member Leslie Goddard). Music will be provided by several bands, including the **Battlefield Balladeers**. The fun runs from 10-4 each day.

CWRT ex-president **Jerry Kowalski**, in his persona as General George Thomas, will speak at the St. Francis School in Wilmette on May 7th and at the Blue Island Park District on May 8th. Jerry and JoEllen will speak at Midway Village in Rockford on May 10-11.

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.

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Fifty-seven years of audio recordings of CWRT lectures by distinguished historians are available and can be purchased in either audio cassette or CD format. For lecture lists, contact Hal Ardell at hal229@ameritech.net or phone him at (773) 774-6781.

Each meeting features a book raffle, with proceeds going to battlefield preservation. There is also a silent auction for books donated by Ralph Newman and others, again with proceeds benefiting battlefield preservation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

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 VP
 Tom Trescott, First VP
 Rae Radovich, Second VP
 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 Whitt, John Van Dellen

CWRT President **Nancy Bates** and Executive Board member **JoEllen Kowalski** presented wreaths in honor of dearly loved members Steven Stewart and Marvin Sanderman at the Lincoln Tomb Service on April 14th. Bitter cold and driving rain did not deter our members and other participants.

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*.

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"

NICWRT Banquet

The Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table is having its annual banquet on June 15, 2007 at the Concorde Banquet Hall (20922 Rand Road, Kildeer, IL, just west of Quentin Road) starting at 6:00. Dinner will be served at 6:30, and the cost is \$32 per person.

The speaker will be noted author **Craig Symonds**, speaking on "The Battle of Hampton Roads and the Raising of the Monitor Turret". Please have your reservations to Tom DeFranco by June 4th. For more information call Tom DeFranco at (708) 456-2251 or George Dailey at (847) 358-8438.