



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXVII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June, 2007



662nd REGULAR MEETING

JOHN COSKI

ON

THE CONFEDERATE BATTLE FLAG

Friday, June 8

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:

Sliced Striploin.

Catch of the Day.

Vegetarian Steak

or Fruit Steak

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, June 4** 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, June 6, 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.

John Coski

on

The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem

BY BRUCE ALLARDICE

The Confederacy last only four years, and like most short-lived nations left few if any enduring symbols of its existence. The Confederate White House is but a vague reminder of the "Lost Cause". Most Americans, and even most Civil War buffs, wouldn't recognize the flag of the Confederacy if they stood next to it. But the Confederate army's battle flag, the St. Andrew's cross filled with stars on a field of red, has outlasted the nation that fostered it. This flag, used in battle to help soldiers identify a regiment's position, has come to symbolize the Confederacy even though the flag never officially represented the Confederacy.

On June 8th John Coski will trace the history of the Confederate battle flag from 1861 to the present, emphasizing how its various uses (particularly since 1865) have affected perceptions of its meaning and influenced modern discussions about the flag and its proper place in American life.



John Coski

John M. Coski is Historian and Director of Library and Research at The Museum of the Confederacy, where he has worked since 1988. He earned his B.A. from Mary Washington College, in Fredericksburg, Virginia, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the College of William and Mary. He is the author of Capital Navy: The Men, Ships and Operations of the James River Squadron (1996), The Army of the Potomac at Berkeley Plantation: The Harrison's Landing Occupation of 1862 (1989) and coauthor of White House of the Confederacy:

An Illustrated History (1993). His latest book – the subject of his talk today – is The Confederate Battle Flag: America's

Most Embattled Emblem, published by Harvard University Press. He lives in Richmond with his wife, Ruth Ann, and their two dogs, Eleanor and India.



Battlefield Preservation

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Bearss Award Goes to Perryville and Slaughter Pen Farm (CWPT): During the recent CWRT "Wartime Washington/Booth Escape Route" tour, Ed Bearss announced his choices as co-winners of the sixth annual Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award: the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association and the Slaughter Pen Farm (Fredericksburg) campaign of the Civil War Preservation Trust [CWPT]. As has been the case in recent years, our contributors' generosity—a sign of abiding affection and respect for Ed—again provides us with funding for two awardees. Each receives \$1,000 from the Battlefield Preservation Fund of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago in recognition of this honor—along with the gratitude of Round Table members and preservationists everywhere for jobs well done.

In 2001 the executive committee of the Chicago Round Table initiated this award as the best way to show our regard for Ed and his years of service to preservation and education. Inherent in the honor (as it was set up in 2001) is the fact that Ed himself chooses the preservation cause/group/project that he deems worthy to receive \$1,000 from the CWRT. Our first awardee (2002) was the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust. In 2003 Ed picked the Kernstown Battlefield Association and in 2004, the Land Conservancy of Adams County (Pennsylvania). Since then, as noted previously, our donors' generosity has allowed Ed to name two winners. In 2005 he chose CWPT's Franklin (Tennessee) campaign and the Friends of Raymond (Mississippi) Battlefield, and last year the Richmond Battlefields Association and Camp Wildcat (Kentucky) Preservation Foundation.

When informed of the award, Jim Lighthizer of CWPT expressed his profound gratitude and noted that the monies accompanying it would be a great help in advancing the Slaughter Pen Farm campaign. Christopher

Kolakowski, executive director of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, stated that he was "so pleased" that Ed chose his group for this "fantastic honor." According to Mr. Kolakowski, one hundred acres acquired at Perryville with help from CWPT—closing date was 18 May 2007—will require interpretation, and the placement of interpretive plaques at the battlefield's Confederate high water mark also is in the works; he indicated that the financial prize would be helpful in meeting those needs. For additional information on our 2007 awardees, see the following Web sites: www.civilwar.org and www.perryville.net.

BPF Committee Will Meet on Friday, June 8: There will be a meeting of the Battlefield Preservation Fund committee at 5:00 P.M. on Friday, June 8. The meeting will be held in our regular dinner-meeting venue at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. Members in good standing of the Civil War Round Table are invited to attend. The BPF committee welcomes suggestions concerning preservation groups and projects that might use our support. Committee members are Mary Abroe, Nancy Bates, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Jerome Kowalski, Marshall Krolick, Rae Radovich, Brian Seiter, and David Zucker.

Richmond Battlefields Assn. Fulfills Obligation in Glendale Purchase: The fall 2006 newsletter of the Richmond Battlefields Association [RBA], one of our 2006 Bearss Award winners, announced that the organization successfully fulfilled its role in the preservation of forty acres at Glendale (Seven Days campaign, June-July 1862). The article is quoted as follows:

"...RBA treasurer David West has mailed a final check covering the balance of the RBA's responsibility for the Sykes Farm purchase at the Frayser's Farm/Glendale battlefield. Our initial payment of \$100,000 went out earlier in the year, the final \$75,000 in October. This collabora-

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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.

...tive project with the Civil War Preservation Trust went smoothly, and there is abundant reason for self-congratulation. Within the previous 50 years, only two purchases at Malvern Hill (one by the old Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the other by its successor, the Civil War Preservation Trust) are of equal or greater significance than this 40 acre triumph at Frayser's Farm/Glendale. There have been other preservation achievements around Richmond that protected more acres than this, but the Sykes Farm has a critical mixture of importance, integrity, and threat that add extra weight to each acre saved...

Access to the site is limited at the moment for several reasons, and the dense, non-historic growth that covers all 40 acres hinders movement and ruins sight lines. But the land is preserved forever, and in time will become a standard stop for anyone touring Richmond's Civil War area battlefields."

President of the RBA Board of Directors Julie Krick indicated last year that her organization would use the financial prize accompanying the 2006 Bearss Award for debt service on the Glendale property. The Civil War Round Table of Chicago thus can take pride in directly supporting this successful cooperative preservation effort.

MAY MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On May 11th Cricket Bauer Pohanka gave an inspirational and enthusiastic presentation on "Battlefield Preservation" before 65 members and guest at the 661st regular meeting. Cricket, the widow of the late, brilliant Civil War historian Brian Pohanka, is continuing Brian's efforts promoting their favorite subject, Civil War preservation. She became interested in history in her home town of Milwaukee. She received a Master's Degree in Costume History from the University of Maryland. She has been the curator/historian at various museums. Presently, Ms. Pohanka is producing a movie on the 5th New York Volunteer Infantry—the Zouave regiment that Brian Pohanka was most closely involved with. She is an active member of the Bard of Trustees of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT).

In her presentation Ms. Pohanka stressed her personal connection with battlefield preservation, hoping to inspire others to become active participants. Since the CWPT is the largest preservation organization, she indicated that a new way to interconnect was critical to the success of battlefield preservation. To back up here belief, Ms. Pohanka proclaimed "The Slaughter Pen Farm of the Fredericksburg Battlefield has been saved. Now the Battlefield at Gaines Mill is up in the air. This is a critical time!" Gaines Mill was one of the battles of the Seven Days campaign, fought in late June near Richmond.

Ms. Pohanka mentioned five reasons why preservation is important to our society today. The actual battlefield—the landscape where the soldiers fought and died—is forever hallowed ground to most of us, but this rationale does not work for the average person because most

Americans don't know of any relatives who fought in the Civil War. "Whenever this is presented as a reason for battlefield preservation, eyes glaze over, and this results in a dead end for most," stated Pohanka.

Secondly, the landscape is an artifact of the past. For example, Abraham Lincoln's top hat and a battlefield are both artifacts of an event. Third, the landscape is a teaching object, a tool of an era that can be used for instructional purposes. Tours of a battlefield teach us more about a battle than one can learn from simply reading Civil War books. Knowledge of battlefield terrain can shape one's opinion about strategy and tactics. For example, a visit to Gettysburg can help one see how the folds in the ground of Pickett's Charge helped shape the tactics used.

Another reason for battlefield preservation is green space. In some urban areas the only territory not built over is the parks, wetlands or battlefields. Some land needs to be set aside for recreation or for historical analysis. This land gives society a perspective other than more housing developments. Lastly, battlefield preservation stresses the importance of space for the historical record. "Every battlefield represents a chapter in the story of American history, and we need to preserve the American story by preserving these chapters of individual battlefields!"

Ms. Pohanka recounted her own personal connection with preservation. A year after they were married, Brian and Cricket bought a house in Alexandria, Virginia, overlooking the Potomac River. This house had formerly been owned by a member of Brian's favorite regiment, the 5th New York. They bought and refurbished the house in a quiet, unde-

veloped neighborhood, but in the last five years development has carved up the neighborhood. Their house is now surrounded by modern houses, blocking the view of the Potomac.

The unmistakable message is that battlefield preservationists need to save as much and as many battlefields as soon as possible. Ms. Pohanka concluded, "Most of us have Civil War connections to soldiers or sites if we look in the right places." If Cricket Pohanka's inspirational message is heeded, those sites will be preserved for generations to come.

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

BEARSS AWARD CONTRIBUTORS

Thanks to the following individuals who contributed to the Bearss Award fund for 2007: Mary and Mike Abroe, Ellen and Jerry Allen, Hal Ardell, Nancy Bates, Marilyn and Chuck Bednar, Ted Birndorf, Kurt Carlson, Robert Carlson, Terry Carr, Richard Cohen, Lorraine Colwell, Kitty and Bob Douglas, Charles Falkenberg, Marybeth Foley, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Cindy Heckler, Cindy Intravartolo, Millie Jarvis, Rosemarie and Tom King, Marshall Krolick, Arthur Kunis, Janet Linhart, Jim Linz, Bob Miller, Richard McAdoo, Jim Nethery, Lyn and Gale Pewitt, Roger Rudich, Jerome Schur, Nancy and Bing Seibold, Brian Seiter, Steve Thompson (in memory of Marvin Sanderman), Richard Tonelli, Muriel Underwood, Paula Walker, Richard Walker, David Whitcher, and Jackie Wilson.

GRAPESHOT



The Stephen A Douglas Association will have its annual luncheon on June 9th at the Union League Club in Chicago. Guest speaker will be historian Gary Ecelbarger, speaking on "The Roots of Rivalry: The First Lincoln Douglas Debates of 1839-1840". The luncheon will be preceded by a ceremony at the Douglas Tomb. For further information, and to make a reservation, contact David Richert, drichtert@earthlink.net, (773) 761-6937.

CWRT past president **Mary Abroe** reviewed Lost Plantation: The Rise and Fall of Seven Oaks by Mark Matrana in the May 2007 issue of the *Journal of Southern History*.

On June 13th the Blue Island Park District will feature CWRT member **Dave Corbett** and his "Battlefield Balladeers" performing Civil War Era music. All Blue Island meetings start at 7:00 p.m. at the Blue Island Park District Field House, 12804 S. Highland Ave., and are open to the public. For more information phone (708) 385-3304 or go online at www.blueislandparks.org.

Jerry and JoEllen Kowalski (as General and Mrs. George Thomas) will be appearing at the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee on June 1st.

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

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 following officers for the 2007-2008 year were elected at the May meeting. Congratulations to all!

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 Whitt, John Van Dellen

Hal Ardell reminds us that the podcasts of the Pritzker Military Library lectures are downloadable if you have a DSL connection to the internet and the iTunes software (how's that for tech-talk?). Among the lectures available is Ed Bearss's April 2006 talk on his new book, "Fields of Honor". See <http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/podcast>.

CWRT ex-president **Brooks Davis** will be leading a tour to Galena, IL, July 7th and 8th. The tour will include the Grant home in Galena and a re-enactment of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. For more information call Elizabeth Nelson at (312) 751-4215 or email enelson@epischicago.org. The reservation deadline is June 20th.

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*.

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 in Kildeer, starting at 6:00. The speaker will be Craig Symonds, who will speak on "The Battle of Hampton Roads and the Raising of the Monitor Turret". For more information call Tom DeFranco at (708) 456-2251 or George Dailey at (847) 358-8438.

Decatur Symposium

The Military History Education Group, an offshoot of the Decatur, IL CWRT, is holding their 9th annual Civil War Conference Saturday, June 9th at Arthur, IL. Speakers include authors Glenn LaFantasie, Terri Kionka, Fred L. Ray and Greg Biggs. For more information on this conference please call (217) 578-2262 or visit www.geocities.com/mhegil1999/index.html.