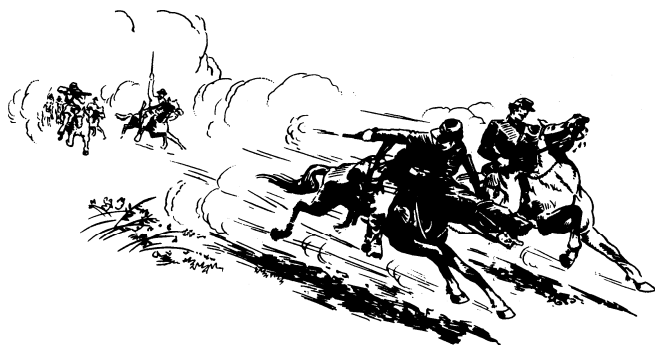


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## *News Letter*

December 2007  
Volume 57, Number 4

### **From Confederate Citizens to Americans Again**

**T**he Civil War radically altered aspects of American life far beyond the battlefield and long after the guns were silenced. Confederates lived lives unlike those of other Americans, particularly in terms of national identity. In a little over four years they abandoned their sense of themselves as Americans, became Confederates, and were then ordered to become Americans again, ready to participate in a society significantly different

from the one they had left. But before they could regain their status as citizens, Confederates had to swear to an oath of their renewed loyalty to the United States. Anne Sarah Rubin will explore the ways that white Southerners negotiated the shifting racial, gender, and social boundaries between Confederate and American during the Civil War and the early part of Reconstruction.

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### **December 2007 Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, December 11, 2007	<b>Place:</b>	Officers' Club Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
<b>Price:</b>	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		
<b>Agenda:</b>	6:00 pm Social Hour: 6.45 pm Dinner:	Cash Bar Salmon Roasted Red Potatoes Vegetable of the Day Key Lime Pie	(Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
	8:00 pm Speaker: Topic:	Anne Rubin From Confederate Citizens to Americans Again	

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, December 10, 2007. Please send them to:

Mr. John Restall  
3324 Glenmore Dr.  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

Phone: 703-578-1942  
Email: [restall@joimail.com](mailto:restall@joimail.com)  
If reserving a dinner by email, make  
such you receive a confirmation email.

As the Round Table must pay for all meals ordered, members and guests  
are obligated to pay for the meal in the event they do not attend.

**PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE ON PAGE 2**

## Officers and Board of Governors for 2007-2008

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Email: kennrice@erols.com

**M**embership in the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia is open to anyone interested in the study of the American Civil War or American history. Our program year runs from September through June of the following year. Dues are \$30.00 per year (\$15 if you join after January 31, 2008) and should be mailed with a membership application form (available on our web site or from the address below) to:

CWRT of DC Membership Committee  
Kenneth R. Rice  
4110 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22207-3005

Checks should be made out to **The CWRT of DC**. Membership includes a subscription to the monthly newsletter which contains notice of dinner meeting dates, speakers, and topics; information on field trips, and various Civil War related articles. Dinner meetings are held from September through June on the second Tuesday of each month at the Fort Leslie J. McNair Officer's Club in Washington, DC. Guests are always welcome at our meetings.

For further information about the Round Table, to submit a newsletter article, or present a program to the Round Table, please contact the newsletter editor.

## IMPORTANT SECURITY NOTICE

**W**e have been entering and leaving through the P Street gate. Please be prepared for a short delay getting through the gate when you arrive. This is for both vehicles and pedestrians. They will ask for a picture ID, search bags, and cars without a current DOD sticker.

## Newsletter by Email

**T**his newsletter is now available by email as an alternative to US mail. All recipients of this newsletter are requested to choose the email version of the newsletter. This will reduce newsletter expenses and allow the money to be used for things like battlefield preservation. To receive this newsletter by email, please indicate so on your membership form, or email the newsletter editor. The newsletter is published on our web site listed below. The newsletter editor's address is:

Kenneth R. Rice  
4110 N. 17<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22207-3005  
Email: kennrice@erols.com  
Phone: 703-527-0077

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Visit our web site at: <http://users.erols.com/kennrice/cwrtdc.htm>

## President's Column

by Gordon Berg

I occasionally take the opportunity to surf the Internet looking at the web sites of other round tables and believe that our web site and newsletter are among the best, both in layout and content. Ken Rice is responsible for both and it has been his policy, one I wholeheartedly agree with, to generally to avoid reprinting news and feature items from other sources. I published both in-house and public information newsletters during my professional career and found that timely information about the activities of colleagues was uniformly of interest to readers of in-house newsletters.

The Executive Board has brainstormed ideas about how to improve the newsletter and make it more relevant to round table members. I have encouraged member submissions in a previous column and Ken has recently published a book review by Jim Hurdle. Ken and I are certainly open to suggestions from members on what they would like to see regularly in the newsletter. Talk or e-mail us with your ideas.

Until the avalanche of suggestions inundates us, I have three suggestions to perhaps get us started. I think that the sharing of information of interest to round table members is critical to maintaining the newsletter as an effective internal communications vehicle.

First, there are a number of our members actively pursuing research topics with the intent to publish their findings sometime in the future. Gail Stephens is hard at work on what I am sure will be the definitive monograph on the wartime career of Union General Lew Wallace. Mark Bradley is the author of two widely acclaimed books about the Civil War in North Carolina, **Bentonville** and **This Miraculous Close: The Road to Bennett Place** and is probably working on new ventures even now. I have several outlines for magazine articles that I hope to pursue in the coming months. Anyone else researching and writing? About what and for

whom? I'd like to know because I'm always interested in new scholarship and perhaps a fellow round table member has come across information related to a particular topic and would share it. Our newsletter can regularly include a section profiling the on-going research of our members.

If you're not writing, perhaps you're reading a Civil War-related book or article that you find particularly interesting. Share your enthusiasms! You have some idea of my reading habits through the book reviews I submit to Ken each month. Right now I'm reading Mark Neely, Jr.'s provocative new book **The Civil War and the Limits of Destruction**. If you don't want to write a full-length review, that's cool; just give Ken the title of the book, new or old, and a sentence or two on what you think of it. Maybe you purchased the book and would be willing to lend it to another interested round table reader. Maybe you found a used book store richly endowed with Civil War titles. I'm always on the lookout for new and interesting dusty shelves to explore.

Finally, walked a battlefield recently? Taken a new trail or blazed one "off the beaten path?" Where did you go? What struck you on your rambles? Do you have any suggestions for the those of us who might follow later? I know we have battlefield explorers in our midst. I know Wendy Swanson, Gail Stephens, Susan Claffey, John Restall, Twyla Jackino, and Dalton Trulock are serious students of Civil War topography and I, for one, would like to know where they've been recently and what they thought about it.

Speaking of topography, don't miss January speaker Professor Mike Owens who will escort us through the psychic and geographic topography of Civil War soldier and, later, famed short story writer, Ambrose Bierce. You won't want to miss his fascinating take on the Civil War.

## Book Review by Gordon Berg

### **History Teaches Us To Hope: Reflections on the Civil War and Southern History**

Charles P. Roland; edited by John David Smith  
University of Kentucky Press, 2007,  
353pp., \$45

**F**ind yourself a quiet hour somewhere between the dark and daylight. Settle back; a wicker lounge on your gallery bolstered with feather pillows will do nicely. Then, with only the hum of crickets, the occasional hoot of a morning dove, and, perhaps a soothing beverage -- a glass of single barrel bourbon, neat, would be appropriate -- for company, open **History Teaches Us To Hope** and let Charles P. Roland take you to another time and place, strikingly different yet eerily similar to the one in which we live now. Read slowly, aloud even. Surrender to the clarity of the arguments and listen to the surety of language used to make them. You are in the company of a master storyteller. And what better compliment to pay a historian.

The 18 essays collected by John David Smith serve as a window into the fertile intellect of one of America's elite historians of the Civil War and the American South. I'd wager that elite is not how this 89-year old son of western Tennessee would characterize himself but even a cursory review of his intellectual bloodlines makes any other word seem inadequate. Undergraduate years at Vanderbilt University in the late 1930s when "The Agrarians" held sway were followed by three years as a captain in the 99th Infantry, the outfit that held Belgium's Losheim Gap against the Sixth Panzer Army during the Battle of the Bulge in the frigid winter of 1944, crossed the Rhine River on the railroad bridge at Remagen in March 1945, and served for a time as provost guard during the 1947 Nuremburg war crimes trials. Graduate studies at Louisiana State University, even with the legendary Bell Irvin Wiley, Francis Butler Simkins and T. Harry Williams for teachers, must have seemed tame by comparison. Roland

has since divided his academic career between Tulane University and the University of Kentucky, where he is currently Alumni Professor Emeritus of History. He has also somehow found the time to write five groundbreaking books along the way.

The essays are divided into four sections and readers are advised not to skip any of them. The first three are autobiographical and includes "A Citizen Soldier Recalls World War II," a soulful reverie of men against fire. Roland has always maintained that his experiences in uniform helped him empathize with the panoply of feelings held by volunteer soldiers of any era. The next five essays survey the coming of the Civil War, essays in which Roland insists that slavery was only one of many causes of America's irrepressible conflict. The epistolary "A Southerner's Defense of Slavery" allows Roland to attribute many of the arguments used to defend the "peculiar institution" by a fictitious Louisiana plantation owner representative of his class to a former college friend living in the North.

The five essays on the nature of Confederate military leadership are superb. Roland's 1964 biography of General Albert Sidney Johnston remains unrivalled and the essay on Johnson's defense of the Confederate west is balanced and insightful. So too are the three essays on the relationship between the generalship and the character of Robert E. Lee. "Robert E. Lee is America's great tragic hero, in the classical use of the expression," Roland writes. "He was a supremely gifted soldier and a fervently devoted patriot, yet he fought for the most unacceptable of American causes, secession and slavery, and he suffered the most un-American of experiences, defeat." (The book's title, in fact, comes from an 1870 letter Lee wrote to Colonel Charles Marshall.) The last group of essays deal with the metamorphosis of the South. They could only have been written by someone imbued with the region's traditions and steeped in its cultural morays. Nevertheless, Roland approaches his native region with same open mind and clear-

eyed discernment that he brings to all his historical analysis.

At the conclusion of your sojourn, you may not agree with all of Roland’s interpretations and conclusions; he wouldn’t expect that you should. What he would expect, I suspect, would be that you analyze the data and the arguments in an orderly manner and arrive at your own understanding of the complex issues and events under discussion. It’s the time honored method for expanding the universe of knowledge and deepening the paths of understanding that Roland learned from his mentors and the way he practices his craft today.

William Faulkner, another son of the fertile region that spawned Charles Roland, wrote that “the past is never dead. It’s not even past.” Charles Roland’s books, essays, and lectures enable him to live in the eternal present, sharing his wisdom about the past to generations yet unborn. We are all enriched by his timeless gift.

**Anne Sarah Rubin**

**A**nne Sarah Rubin is associate professor of history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with expertise on race, gender and social issues in the American South during the antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction periods. She collaborated with Professor Edward J. Ayers on developing the groundbreaking multi-dimensional **Valley of the Shadow Project** and is the author of **A Shattered Nation: The Rise and Fall of the Confederacy, 1861-1868**, winner of the 2006 Avery O. Craven Award from the Organization of American Historians, along with numerous articles and book reviews. Her dissertation at the University of Virginia “Redefining the South: Confederates, Southerners, and Americans, 1863-1868” was runner-up for the Allan Nevins Prize, given annually by the Society of American Historians for the best dissertation in American history, 1999.

**Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, December 11, 2007.**

The deadline for reservations is Monday, December 10, 2007.

The cost is \$29.00 per person. Please make your check payable to CWRT of DC.

Member’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest’s Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Cost of dinners: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Contribution to Edwin C. Bearss Award: \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Please see the description on the opposite side of this form.)

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

(Needed in case the meeting must be cancelled .)

Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form and your check to: Mr. John Restall  
 3324 Glenmore Dr.  
 Falls Church, VA 22041-3317

## **The Wartime Effects of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart Now on Display**

**T**he Museum of the Confederacy is pleased to announce that the most complete collection of Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's wartime effects will be exhibited to the public together for the first time in a over a century. The Virginia Historical Society's collection of Stuart items will be on special loan to the Museum of the Confederacy until 2010. The collection will join the Museum's already extensive collection of Stuart artifacts currently on display in The Confederate Years, the Museum's permanent exhibit. New items on special loan include his Whitney pistol, uniform jacket, vest, trousers, and the blood-stained sash worn at the time of his mortal wounding at Yellow Tavern in May of 1864. Those items join the Museum's regular Stuart display that includes his French-made hat with ostrich plume, LeMat pistol and holster, saddle, boots, gauntlets, French cavalry saber, sword belt, Calisher & Terry carbine, and field desk.

"This exhibit is one of the most complete exhibits of personal effects of an important Civil War general ever on display," stated Robert Hancock, the Museum of the Confederacy's director of collections and senior curator. "It combines the two separate, venerable collections of Stuart artifacts and has an impressive presence in the Museum."

### **25 Years Ago**

**O**n December 14, 1982, Colonel Joseph B. Mitchell spoke to the Round Table about "The Generalship of Stonewall Jackson." It was his eleventh presentation to the Round Table.

### **50 Years Ago**

**C**olonel Robert S. Hall spoke to the Round Table on December 10, 1957, about "Chaplains of the Civil War." Colonel Hall was a Chaplain at Fort Meade.

## **Get Serious about Preservation!**

This past June, the DC Roundtable awarded its annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award to the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The award, totaling \$1000, was given to the group at the request of the man himself – Ed Bearss. As all of you know, this is something the Round Table does every year to honor Ed and to repay him, in some small way, for speaking to us and leading our field trip for free – yes, without compensation.

We're not alone. Ed donates his time to many groups in order to spark interest in the Civil War and to build momentum to preserve the Civil War landscape. This is an important time, because more of that landscape is disappearing every year. Therefore, now is the time to save it.

Your dinner reservation form has a spot to make a contribution. In addition, the Bearss' Bear, to collect money for the same purpose, is on the table at every meeting. Think what five or ten dollars from each of you every month would add up to at the end of the year. Added to the monies that we manage to set aside from book raffles, etc., we could contribute more than \$1000 to battlefield preservation.

There are many deserving Civil War preservation efforts out there, some large like the Civil War Preservation Trust, and some small like the Friends of Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Ed manages every year to choose those who are most deserving, so let's help him out and help out a good cause. Literally, we are the people who can help save history.