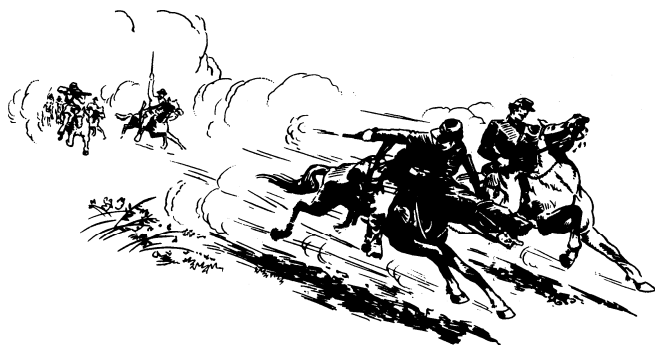


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## *News Letter*

March 2009  
Volume 58, Number 7

### **The Seeds of American Burial Practice**

**I**n September 1918, on the eve of America's celebrated World War I offensive in northern France, the U.S. secretary of war pledged that the government would provide a home burial to all who died in foreign service. Alternatively, families could opt to have their loved ones buried in national battlefield cemeteries overseas. The secretary's promise resulted in a massive operation that cost the government more than thirty million dollars and firmly established a precedent that endures.

This unique approach to commemoration adopted by the U.S. after the First World War and the accompanying expansion of the federal government's power, are a direct result of the nation's response to the massive death tolls of the Civil War, more than fifty years before. The bloody apocalypse was the dominant force that shaped the memory of war for countless generations of Americans.

(Continued on page 3.)

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### **March 2009 Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, March, 2009	<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 Chicken Marsala Vegetable of the Day (Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.) Rice Pilaf Chocolate Cake	
	8:00 pm Speaker: Topic:	Lisa Budreau The Seeds of American Burial Practice	

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 9, 2009. 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**

Note: The entrance to Ft. McNair is now on 2nd Street.

## Officers and Board of Governors for 2008-2009

President: Thomas R. Devaney Home: 703-385-6546 Office: 202-413-7200 Email: trdevaney48@msn.com	Vice President: Susan Claffey Home: 301-326-2477 Office: 202-654-2907 Email: sclaffey@gsabc.com	Board Member: Twyla Jackino Home: 571-434-3819 Office: 202-628-1776 x446 Email: tjackino@comcast.net
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**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, 2009) 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

**T**he entrance to Ft. McNair has been moved to a new gate and search facility on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. 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>

## Lisa Budreau

**L**isa Budreau is a research historian currently based at the Office of Medical History for The Army's Surgeon General. She holds a doctorate from Oxford University, England, and a Master of Arts in American Studies from the University of Nottingham. Dr. Budreau, an Anglo-American, has published and lectured in Europe and the U.S. on a variety of topics regarding war and remembrance. She has a diverse background in cultural heritage that includes museums, teaching and battlefield tour guiding. In 2008, Lisa edited a pictorial history on the Army Nurse Corps entitled **Answering the Call** (published by GPO). Her new book, **Bodies of War: World War 1 and the Politics of Commemoration in America, 1919-1933**, will be available in late 2009.

### The Seeds of American Burial Practice

(Continued from page 1.)

By the end of the nineteenth century families expected options regarding the final resting place of their war dead, to include national cemeteries for those who chose not to bring their loved ones home; they also anticipated an unrestrained right to erect monuments upon former battlefields. Unlike citizens of other nations, the American public held their government and military leaders responsible for the care of their deceased to the extent that they presumed the use of modern funereal procedures and advanced search and identification methods.

Other factors such as the significant role women played as keepers of public memory, the manner in which the dominant collective memory excluded African Americans, and the process in which remembrance concentrated on tactics, courage and valor rather than the human cost, would play out again in the construction of future war memory with uncanny similarity.

These diverse national expectations made the task of commemorating the first modern,

international war of the twentieth century an intrinsically complicated one, yet its legacy persists. Dr. Lisa Budreau will base her illustrated presentation on segments of her book **Bodies of War** (available in late 2009, NYU Press) that highlight the Civil War's key influences upon the evolution of collective war memory.

### Threat to Monocacy Battlefield

**T**he Frederick County Council has proposed building a \$527 million dollar plant to burn waste to generate energy located directly across the Monocacy River from Monocacy National Battlefield in the McKinney Industrial Park. They are holding a series of hearings on the issue of the plant and its location.

The plant would have a huge impact on the park. Its 350-450 foot smokestack will be directly west of the battlefield, and will be the biggest thing on the near horizon from every point in the park. The noise from the huge trucks bringing and dumping trash from Frederick and Carroll Counties will also impact the battlefield because the plant will be just across the Monocacy River from the Worthington Farm. The possibility that this plant would be constructed caused the Civil War Preservation Trust to put Monocacy on its ten most endangered battlefields list.

Don't let the shortsighted commissioners in Frederick County spoil a national battlefield. There are other sites for this plant, but they have been rejected, one of them because it would spoil the area's rural character. Yet, they are willing to spoil a national park, where soldiers fought and died. Please send a protest to the Board of County Commissioners, Frederick County, MD, Winchester Hall, 12 East Church St., Frederick, MD 21701.

## **The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History**

By John F. Schmutz

\$75.00 Hardcover, 428 pages

McFarland, Jan 2009

The Battle of the Crater is one of the lesser known and understood, but most intriguing battles of the Civil War. It is set amongst the brutal and unendurable trench warfare at Petersburg, Virginia, which served as a remarkable foreshadowing of the situation faced by the adversaries in France fifty years later. The battle itself, and the machinations leading up to it, present a plot worthy of the most creative piece of fiction so much so that one might find it incredulous if it was not all proven fact.

The plot has all the elements necessary for the weaving of a great novel: political correctness run amuck, the commander of the critical lead element drunk and hiding in a bomb shelter as his troops pass into harm's way, a titanic clash of egos and petty jealousy at the high command, and an unusually colorful cast of characters. Add to this mix the employment of unique military tactics and movements, war atrocities, the destruction of the military career of one of the war's most famous generals, the blundering of an officer considered the war's worst general, and then throw in a Congressional investigation, and one has the makings of remarkable novel, though perhaps one that strains credulity. However, these elements are all documented facts. The battle itself grew in familiarity recently with the release of the movie *Cold Mountain*, which opened with an eleven minute, spell-binding segment on the battle.

This new book delves into the military and political background of the battle by tracing the rival armies from the early months of 1864, through their bitter conflicts of the Overland Campaign, and ending with the crossing of the James River and the onset of the siege of Petersburg. A hard look at the way the war was

perceived by both sides after over three years of blood letting is carefully laid out in order for one to appreciate the relative impact the battle had on the body politic of both sides. Thus, while this work is lengthy for an analysis of a battle which lasted less than ten hours, there is a considerable investment of time in placing the battle in its proper perspective in history. No work to date has so treated this important, intriguing conflict which has received far less than its due in serious academic analysis.

## **There's A Nameless Grave In The Battlefield**

**T**his mute reminder of Antietam's awful cost suggests how many thousand homes were sunk in grief such as the poem "After All" describes. The soldiers themselves shared this grief. One of their saddest duties was the burial of comrades. When the graves had been dug, if there was found on their person any means of identifying them or if any one knew who they were, little pieces of board were secured and placed at the head of each. On these little boards, pieces of cracker-box, generally, would be placed the name and regiment of the deceased comrade written in pencil. Under the rain and the snows the writing would be obliterated or the boards themselves tumble down, and those lying in their graves on the battlefield would pass into the number of the great "unknown." There were no opportunities afforded in these burial details to go through any religious forms. The numbers forbade. Yet the lads who formed burial parties always gave their meed of reverence.

## **25 Years Ago**

**E**lden E. "Josh" Billings gave a presentation to the Round Table on March 13, 1984. His topic was "Phil Sheridan: A Character Sketch." Josh Billings was president of the Round Table in 1966-67.

**50 Years Ago**

**O**n March 10, 1959, Richard F. Lufkin, a non-resident member of the Round Table from Boston, gave a presentation to the Round Table on “Benjamin Franklin Butler, Civil War General and Governor of Massachusetts.”

**Bivouacs and Battlefields:  
Fauquier County’s Civil War  
Landscape**

**T**he Fauquier County government and local citizens’ groups will co-host a **FREE** one day symposium titled “Bivouacs and Battlefields: Fauquier County’s Civil War Landscape” on Saturday, March 28, at Fauquier High School, 705 Waterloo Road, Warrenton, Virginia 20186. The event will bring to life the historical significance of the Fauquier countryside.

The lectures will start at 8:30 a.m., break for an hour at lunch, and feature Robert K. Krick, Bud Hall, Garry Adelman, Childs Burden, and Kris White as speakers. The lecture will conclude with a special 3-D presentation by Bob Zeller. Fauquier County, positioned between Washington and Richmond, was a geographical

crossroads of the American Civil War. By the summer of 1862, Fauquier County was considered an area of strategic importance to both Union and Confederate commanders. For the South, it provided a gateway from the Shenandoah Valley to Manassas. For the North, it cushioned the defense of Washington, D.C. and protected the movement of troops and supplies through Manassas Gap. Fauquier County became occupied territory.

Questionable loyalties, cavalry raiders, piecemeal battles, and spies all were part of the physical and cultural landscape during the war. Fauquier County contains 12 battlefields that number among the 384 most significant battlefields in a war that involved some 10,660 military engagements. Aldie, Auburn I, Auburn II, Brandy Station, Buckland Mills, Kelly’s Ford, Manassas Gap, Middleburg, Rappahannock Station, Rappahannock II, Thoroughfare Gap, and Upperville were fought in the county’s mountain gaps, along its railroads and roads, and across the entire stretch of the Rappahannock River.

Fauquier High School  
705 Waterloo Road  
Warrenton, Virginia 20186.

**Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, March 10, 2009.**

The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 10, 2009.

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

## After All

The apples are ripe in the orchard,  
The work of the reaper is done,  
And the golden woodlands reddened  
In the blood of the dying sun.

At the cottage-door the grandsire  
Sits pale in his easy-chair,  
While the gentle wind of twilight  
Plays with his silver hair.

A woman is kneeling beside him;  
A fair young head is pressed,  
In the first wild passion of sorrow,  
Against his aged breast.

And far from over the distance  
The faltering echoes come  
Of the flying blast of trumpet  
And the rattling roll of drum

And the grandsire speaks in a whisper :  
"The end no man can see;  
But we give him to his country,  
And we give our prayers to Thee."

The violets star the meadows,  
The rose-buds fringe the door,  
And over the grassy orchard  
The pink-white blossoms pour.

But the grandsire's chair is empty,  
The cottage is dark and still;  
There's a nameless grave in the battle-field.  
And a new one under the hill.

And a pallid, tearless woman  
By the cold hearth sits alone;  
And the old clock in the corner  
Ticks on with a steady drone.

William Winter

"After All" and "There's A Nameless Grave  
In The Battlefield" are reprinted from **The  
Photographic History of the Civil War.**

## Get Serious about Preservation!

This past June, the DC Round Table 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.



Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia  
2009 Civil War Weekend

**“GETTYSBURG VIGNETTES”**

**THE STRUGGLE FOR EAST CEMETERY RIDGE &  
CULP’S HILL**

**and**

**THE RETREAT & PURSUIT OF LEE’S ARMY**

**with**

**Ed Bearss**

**June 27 & 28, 2009**

Join the master battlefield tramper, Ed Bearss, on Saturday for a look at a sector of the Gettysburg battlefield that is often overlooked by both tourists and historians alike. Had the Confederates broken through, and they nearly succeeded, with their series of attacks between July 2 and 3 on the Union positions at East Cemetery Hill and Culp’s Hill, Pickett’s charge would have been unnecessary.

Day One will also include the new Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center. You will be given time to tour at your own pace the museum and bookstore as well as watch the movie “A New Birth of Freedom” and see the newly restored “Battle of Gettysburg” Cyclorama. Of the 12 galleries in the new Gettysburg Museum of the American Civil War, 11 are based on phrases from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address and organized to help visitors understand and appreciate the museum’s major themes, including the Gettysburg Campaign, the Civil War, and its causes and consequences.

On Sunday, we will follow the retreat of Robert E. Lee’s main army from Gettysburg. Against long odds and burdened with thousands of casualties, Confederate commander Robert E. Lee’s post-Gettysburg challenge was to complete a successful withdrawal of his army across the Potomac River. Union commander George Meade’s equally difficult task was to intercept Lee’s effort and destroy his army. The responsibility for defending the vulnerable Southern columns belonged to its cavalry chieftain, Jeb Stuart. If Stuart mishandled his

famous ride north to Gettysburg, his generalship during this retreat more than redeemed his dwindling reputation. The ten days of retreat triggered nearly two dozen skirmishes and major engagements, including fighting at Granite Hill, Monterey Pass, Hagerstown, Williamsport, Funkstown, Boonsboro, and Falling Waters.

While following the retreat route, we will visit many off the beaten path sites including the spot at Monterey Pass where some of Lee’s wagons fell over the edge of the cliff and we will walk a remnant of the actual road bed used by Lee’s Confederates.

**What Is Included:**

- Expert Tour Leader
- Hotel accommodations for one (1) night.
- Meals, as indicated on the itinerary below.
- Admissions, service charges and gratuities.
- All on-tour transportation. Motor coach on Saturday and Sunday, transportation to hotel and dinner Saturday evening and return motor coach to starting location on Sunday.
- Map packet
- Snacks and refreshments on bus

**What Is Not included:**

- Meals other than specified on itinerary below, personal items such as wines, liquors, a-la-carte orders, in-hotel movies, room service.
- Other items not specifically mentioned as included.



Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia  
 2009 Civil War Weekend  
**“GETTYSBURG VIGNETTES”**  
**THE STRUGGLE FOR EAST CEMETERY RIDGE &  
 CULP’S HILL**  
**and**  
**THE RETREAT & PURSUIT OF LEE’S ARMY**  
 with  
**Ed Bearss**  
 June 27 & 28, 2009

**Saturday, June 27, 2009**

- 8:00 AM Depart Ft. McNair  
 9:45 AM Arrive Gettysburg Visitor Center for rest break  
 10:00 AM Depart for Culp’s Hill (walk)  
 - CSA Gen. “Allegheny” Johnson’s July 2, 1863 attack  
 -Pardee Field & Spangler’s Spring  
 -Benner’s Hill  
 1:00 PM Arrive Museum and Visitor Center (FREE TIME)  
 -Lunch the Visitor Center Refreshment Saloon (NOT included in tour fee)  
 -View the new 22-minute movie 'A New Birth of Freedom' and the newly restored Cyclorama painting (Movie & Cyclorama included in tour fee)  
 -Tour the exhibits bookstore  
 3:30 PM East Cemetery Hill  
 -Jubal Early’s Attack on July 2, 1863  
 5:00 PM Dealer’s Choice: more time at the Visitor Center or tour of Power’s Hill  
 -Power’s Hill (walk)  
 -Union logistics at their “Grand Central Station”  
 6:00 PM Depart for dinner (included in tour fee)  
 7:30 PM Arrive at hotel (included in tour fee)

**Sunday, June 28, 2009** (Box lunch provided on bus & inc. in tour fee)

- 8:00 AM Depart Hotel  
 8:30 AM Arrive Sachs Bridge  
 9:00 AM Arrive Fairfield, PA -Battle of Fairfield (walk)  
 9:50 AM Blue Ridge Summit, PA -Battle for Monterey Pass  
 11:10 AM Arrive Smithsburg, MD  
 Noon Arrive Hagerstown, MD -Battle of Hagerstown  
 12:30 PM Arrive Funkstown, MD -Battle of Funkstown  
 1:30 PM Arrive Williamsport, MD -Battle of Williamsport (walk)  
 3:00 PM Battle of Falling Water and Crossing of Potomac  
 4:30 PM Depart for Ft. McNair  
 6:30 PM Arrive Ft. McNair