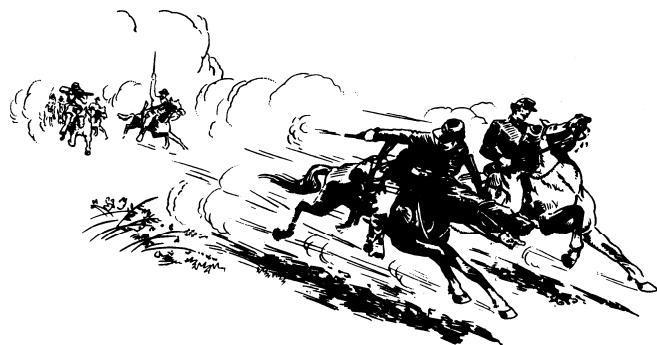


# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



## *News Letter*

May 2009  
Volume 58, Number 9

### **A Portrait of Robert E. Lee Through His Private Letters**

**R**obert E. Lee's war correspondence is well known, and here and there personal letters have found their way into print, but the great majority of his most intimate messages have never been made public. These letters reveal a far more complex and contradictory man than the one who comes most readily to the imagination, for it is with his family and his friends that Lee is at his most candid, most engaging, and most vulnerable. Over the past several years historian Elizabeth Brown Pryor has uncovered a rich trove of unpublished Lee materials that had been held in both private and public collections. Her new book, a unique blend of analysis, narrative, and historiography,

presents dozens of these letters in their entirety, most by Lee but a few by family members. Each letter becomes a departure point for an essay that shows what the letter uniquely reveals about Lee's time or character. The material covers all aspects of Lee's life--his early years, West Point, his work as an engineer, his relationships with his children and his slaves, his decision to join the South, his thoughts on military strategy, and his disappointments after defeat in the Civil War. The result is perhaps the most intimate picture to date of Lee, one that deftly analyzes the meaning of his actions within the context of his personality, his relationships, and the social tenor of his times.

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### **May 2009 Meeting**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, May 12, 2009</b>	<b>Place:</b>	Officers' Club
<b>Price:</b>	Dinner \$29.00 per person Lecture only \$5.00		Fort Lesley J. McNair Washington, DC
<b>Agenda:</b>	6:00 pm Social Hour:	Cash Bar	
	6:45 pm Dinner:	Mahi Mahi Vegetable of the Day Rice Pilaf Apple Pie	(Vegetarian meals are available upon request in advance.)
	8:00 pm Speaker:	Elizabeth Pryor	
	Topic:	Robert E. Lee	

Guests are always welcome to attend our meetings.

The deadline for reservations is Monday, May 11, 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>

**Clint Johnson**

In April 2005 National Geographic Maps, with the Civil War Preservation Trust and the National Park Service, published a map to accompany the magazine article “Civil War Battlefields: Saving the Landscape of America’s Deadliest War” which ran in National Geographic Magazine. In response to requests from Civil War aficionados, students, and preservationists to purchase reprints of this highly detailed thematic map, it is once again available as a premium printed edition, ideal for framing. Additionally, the map is being offered to members of Civil War Round Tables at a 40% discount and free shipping until June of 2009. If anyone is interested in taking advantage of this special pricing simply visit [www.natgeomaps.com/vip](http://www.natgeomaps.com/vip) and enter the promo code: **NGCIVILWAR** in the “New Member Registration” section on the left-side of the page. Should you wish to view the map online or read the original article, you can visit: [http://www.natgeomaps.com/battles\\_civilwar](http://www.natgeomaps.com/battles_civilwar)

**Monocacy Incinerator Update**

At a recent CWRTDC meeting, a petition to stop the incinerator near the Monocacy Battlefield was circulated to the members. The Frederick County commissioners have decided to suspend plans for the incinerator. The full story can be read online at [www.fredericknewspost.com](http://www.fredericknewspost.com) by entering “incinerator” in the search box.

**25 Years Ago**

Dr. Russell F. Weigley gave a presentation to the Round Table on May 8, 1984. His topic was “How Lee Defeated the Confederacy.”

**50 Years Ago**

On May 11, 1959, Colonel Robert S. Henry discussed the highlights in the fast moving history of Harpers Ferry. A battlefield tour of harpers Ferry was sponsored by the Round Table on May 23, 1959.

**Dinner Reservation Form For Tuesday, May 12, 2009.**

The deadline for reservations is Monday, May 11, 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

## **CWRT Fundraising Program**

### **A Letter From Savas Beatty Publishing**

**T**hank you for your CWRT and the service you provide for your members. We understand how important it is to groups like yours to raise money for battlefield preservation, to bring in guest speakers, and to keep membership dues low.

We here at Savas Beatie have developed a simple way for your CWRT to raise money for your favorite charity, promote Civil War scholarship, and support hardworking authors and independent Civil War publishing.

When any of your members (or their family and friends) purchase a book from our website and use your group's individual code at check out, we will donate 30% (THIRTY PERCENT) of the cost of the book back to your Round Table! Yes, it is that simple. Any Book. Any Topic (not just Civil War). Any Time. Here's how it works:

- Encourage your membership, friends, and family to visit our dynamic website at: [www.savasbeatie.com](http://www.savasbeatie.com);

- Browse our selection of Civil War and other general and military history titles;

- Almost all of our books are either signed by the author, or ship with a customized signed book plate!

- Enter your Coupon Code – CWRTofDC – when making your PayPal purchase;

- Once a quarter, we will write a check directly to your CWRT to use however you like;

Please share this information with your members at your next meeting, print it in your upcoming newsletter, consider keeping it in each newsletter, and mention it in your next email blast.

If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Hall at 916-941-6896 or [tammy@savasbeatie.com](mailto:tammy@savasbeatie.com).

We look forward to working with you to raise money for your CWRT!

### **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.