

Civil War
ROUNDTABLE
Of
Arkansas

P.O. Box 7281 • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72217



Our 44th Year

FOR THE MEETING TUESDAY, May 27, 2008

Meets Fourth Tuesday; January-November

Founded March 1964

Second Presbyterian Church

600 Pleasant Valley Drive

Little Rock

Program at 7 p.m.

Online: www.civilwarbuff.org

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Dues \$20 Per Year

VISITORS WELCOME!

VISIT THE BATTLEFIELDS WHEN YOU CAN...

WHILE YOU CAN

**"If you go with me outside the lines:"
Honor and Military Justice in the Union Army**

Dr. Lorien Foote

The Articles of War and civil laws covering military discipline were written and enacted before the Civil War to govern a small, self-contained professional military service. The military maintained order with a caste system and disciplined with shame and pain. With the mustering of great armies and navies, this way of life was revealed to vast numbers of civilian volunteers for the first time. Trouble resulted.

The Union and Confederate armies were led by small cadres of professionals who found that the war they were to fight required the coordinated movement of enormous bodies of men. The drill discipline this required was to be supplied by

manuals such as Hardee' Tactics and the vigorous efforts of noncommissioned and junior officers. But many of these were friends or relatives of the men in the hometown companies in which they served. The local origin and makeup of most volunteer units had a poor effect on discipline; the men had elected their leaders, so volunteer officers were often wary of being strict with their troops. Early in the war this necessitated the removal or transfer of many volunteer officers, and in a few cases, the punishment of entire regiments.

Dr. Lorien Foote received a BA in Political Science from the University of Kansas and a PhD from the

University of Oklahoma. She is Associate Professor of History at the University of Central Arkansas specializing in the Civil War and Reconstruction and 19th Century America. She has published a book, *Seeking the One Great Remedy: Francis George Shaw and Nineteenth-Century Reform*, and several articles, most recently in *Civil War History*. She is working on another book entitled *The War for Manhood in the Union Army*.

BATTLE OF MASSARD PRAIRIE

Dale Cox has announced the publication of his latest Civil War book, *The Battle of Massard Prairie, Arkansas*.



Massard Prairie Monument

This fascinating battle took place on July 27, 1864 on the outskirts of Fort Smith and was one of the most dramatic Confederate victories in Arkansas.

The Battle of Massard Prairie was especially significant because: 1) it included a dramatic mass cavalry charge across miles of open ground, 2) hundreds of white and Native American Confederate soldiers fought side by side, and 3) it resulted in one of the few documented cases of Union soldiers scalping Southern dead.

The book is being published by Yuchi Heritage of Florida and all profits will be donated to historic preservation efforts. 50% have been committed to assist with the development of the new Driving Tour at Cane Hill Battlefield in Arkansas. If you are aware of other projects in need of funding, please contact me to discuss the possibilities.

The book is available now through www.exploresouthernhistory.com (just look for the Battle of Massard Prairie heading), where you can also read more about the battle. It will be available through the gift shop at Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park in 7-10 days and will begin popping up on most online bookstores over the next month or so. Other locations will be announced soon.
<http://www.civilwararkansas.blogspot.com/>

MEMORIAL DAY STARTED IN THE SOUTH

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War: a hymn published in 1867, "Kneel Where Our Loves are Sleeping" by Nella L. Sweet carried the dedication "To The Ladies of the South who are Decorating the Graves of the Confederate Dead" (Source: Duke University's Historic American Sheet Music, 1850-1920).

While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings; each of those towns and every planned or spontaneous gathering of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead, each contributed honorably to the growing movement. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war).

It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays).

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moina Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies.



She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Later a Madam Guerin from France was visiting the United States and

learned of this new custom started by Ms. Michael and when she returned to France, made artificial red poppies to raise money for war orphaned children and widowed women.

This tradition spread to other countries. In 1921, the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies nationally to benefit war orphans of France and Belgium. The League disbanded a year later and Madam Guerin approached the VFW for help. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948 the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

Traditional observance of Memorial day has diminished over the years. Many Americans nowadays have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. At many cemeteries, the graves

of the fallen are increasingly ignored, neglected. Most people no longer remember the proper flag etiquette for the day. While there are towns and cities that still hold Memorial Day parades, many have not held a parade in decades. Some people think the day is for honoring any and all dead, and not just those fallen in service to our country.

To help re-educate and remind Americans of the true meaning of Memorial Day, the "National Moment of Remembrance" resolution was passed on Dec 2000 which asks that at 3 p.m. local time, for all Americans "To voluntarily and informally observe in their own way a Moment of remembrance and respect, pausing from whatever they are doing for a moment of silence or listening to 'Taps.'"

The Moment of Remembrance is a step in the right direction to returning the meaning back to the day. What is needed is a full return to the original day of observance. Set aside one day out of the year for the nation to get together to remember, reflect and honor those who have given their all in service to their country.

But what may be needed to return the solemn, and even sacred, spirit back to Memorial Day is for a return to its traditional day of observance. Many feel that when Congress made the day into a three-day weekend in with the National Holiday Act of 1971, it made it all the easier for people to be distracted from the spirit and meaning of the day.



As the VFW stated in its 2002 Memorial Day address: "Changing the date merely to create three-day weekends has undermined the very meaning of the day. No doubt, this has contributed greatly to the general public's nonchalant observance of Memorial Day."

From "Hallowed Ground" , the official magazine of the Civil War Preservation Trust-Spring 2008

Planning a vacation for this summer and looking for a few new side trips from your route? Pick up a copy of "Civil War Sites: The Official Guide to the Civil War Discovery Trail" and no matter where you're going, you'll be able to find Civil War history along the way!

Published by Globe Pequot Press, Civil War Sites contains indispensable information for the historic traveler. From operating hours and entrance fees to driving directions, you'll find everything you need for a successful visit to 610 sites in 31 states, the District of Columbia and three foreign countries.

So before you pack up the car and hit the road, check your local bookseller or order your copy from an online retailer.

AFTER ACTION REPORT

At the last meeting, Don Hamilton asked for support on the Panel at Riverfront Park. The members voted to provide the funding to create four more panels for the site. Those particular panels receive a great deal of abuse, but have lasted for about ten years.

The total cost for the four panels is \$955 delivered, about \$125 more than we paid ten years ago. The panels will be stored at the McArthur Military Museum until they are needed.

Also, clean up of the two panels that we maintain was discussed. It was decided that periodic cleanup days would be scheduled throughout the summer in hopes that we could keep up with the grass and weeds that grow around them.

In April, the Round Table had voted to support the moving of the David O. Dodd Memorial that "originally" marked the spot where he was hung. The monument has been moved a couple of times and is currently on the grounds of the Law School.

The Little Rock city Parks Department in conjunction with the McArthur Military Museum will move the monument to its final (we hope) resting place this summer. It will be behind the Museum around the parade grounds.

The civil war community has been charged with coming up with appropriate signage to identify the event. We have an opportunity here to tell the story of David O. Dodd. The cost may be around \$1,200 for a full panel and the story. Individuals have already pledged some money.

The Central Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trails and the Civil War Roundtable of Arkansas would probably be the organizations to spearhead the fund drive.

More on this in the next couple of months.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

June 24 – Mark Christ
Recruiting Black Regiments

July 22 -- Brig. Gen. Parker Hills (ret) of
Clinton, Mississippi.
Battle of Raymond

August 26 – Dr. Michael B. Dougan
Christian missionaries and Indians -- slavery
and related themes

September 23 -- Dr. Ruth Hawkins
Restoration of the Lakeport Plantation near
Lake Village

October 28 -- Tom Dillard
Infrastructure in Arkansas during the Civil
War

November 25 - Connie Langum, Park
Historian, Wilson's Creek

December – No Scheduled Meeting

PROGRAMS 2009

January 27, 2009 – Robert E. Lee Dinner

February 24, 2009 -

March 24, 2009 -

April 28 2009 - Historian Terry Winschel,
Vicksburg National Military Park

**We Who Study
Must Also Strive To Save!**



The San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table, American Legion Post 147 of Clovis, the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, and Civil War Round Table Associates of Little Rock, Arkansas, in memory of Jerry Russell, invite you to the



**24th Annual West Coast
Civil War Round Table
Conference**

November 7-9, 2008

Clovis, California

(adjacent to and northeast of Fresno)

**“Civil War in the
Shenandoah Valley”**

Featuring:

Robert K. Krick, Jeffry Wert, Jim Stanbery, Peter Cozzens, Evan Jones, Don and Bill Bennett, and Emily and Olivia Moats, in a one-act play based on the Civil War diaries of Laura Lee, Secessionist, and Julia Chase, a Unionist, residents of Winchester, Virginia.

The Brass Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will regale registrants with music of the period on Friday the 7th before dinner.

A special showing of Shenandoah with Jimmy Stewart will be presented in the barely a year old theater/auditorium of the Veterans Memorial Building on Friday the 7th at 9 pm.

An optional tour on Saturday the 8th from 9 am to noon features a tour of the Fresno home of Dr. Meux (portrayed by Charles Baley), an assistant surgeon in the 9th Tennessee Vol. Inf. (C.S.A.) who moved to Fresno after losing his slaves and other valuables as a result of the war, and a tour to the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial and internments of Union Veterans of the War at Fresno's Mountain View Cemetery, led by G.A.R. historian Fred Bohmfalk of Elk Grove.

Bloody Shenandoah, narrated by Burgess Meredith, will be shown at approximately 9 p.m. following the Keynote Address after dinner on Saturday the 8th.

Hundreds of books will be for sale, information about a tour of the Shenandoah Valley in 2009 will be available, and civil war artifacts and weaponry will be displayed.

Comfort Suites (143 Clovis Ave, 559-299-9992) and Best Western Clovis Cole (415 Clovis Ave, 559-299-1547) hotels in Old Town Clovis have reserved blocks of rooms for us at only \$109.00 for a double room. Ask for the Civil War Conference Rate.

The meeting will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building at Hughes and 6th less than two blocks from the two hotels. The registration fee of \$175.00, includes six meals (Dinner Friday the 7th, breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday the 8th, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday the 9th).

The Program:

Friday, November 7th

2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Registration. Foyer of the Veterans Memorial Building, Clovis, CA.

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Pre-dinner socializing. Book tables open, tour information available.

6 p.m. to 6:45 Performance, the Military Band of the Central California Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

6:55 p.m. Presentation of the Colors, Civil War Re-enactment Society.

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinner, prepared by American Legion Post 147

8 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Keynote Address: Jim Stanbery, Los Angeles Harbor College "The Importance of the Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, 1860 - 65."

9 p.m. to 11 p.m. "Shenandoah", a movie starring Jimmy Stewart, in the theater.

Saturday, November 8th

7:30 a.m. to 9 am Breakfast, prepared by a local Boy Scout Troop.

9 a.m. to 9:40 "The Lethality of Civil War Weapons", Don and Bill Bennett.

10 am to 10:40 "Two Women of Winchester," a one-act play by David Paul Davenport, featuring the Moats sisters, Emily and Olivia, as Laura Lee and Julia Chase, residents of Winchester who kept diaries.

11 am to 11:40 "Jackson before Cross Keys and Port Republic," Peter Cozzens.

12 noon Lunch, prepared by American Legion Post 147.

1 p.m. to 1:40 Keynote Address: Robert K. Krick. "Who could not conquer with such troops as these?": Cross Keys and Port Republic.

2 p.m. to 3:15 "A Season of Politics, Blunders and Scorched Earth - The Union Renews the Valley War", Peter Cozzens.

3:30 to 4:45 "From Lynchburg to Washington: Jubal Early takes Command," Jeffry Wert.

5 p.m. to 5:15 Jack Tacchino, "Visiting Civil War Sites, 2009."

5:15 p.m. to 7 Socializing, Book tables open, etc.

7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Dinner

8 p.m. to 8:45 Keynote Address: Jeffry Wert: "The Last Great Gamble," from 3rd Winchester to Cedar Creek.

9 p.m. Bloody Shenandoah, a movie, in the Theater.

Sunday, November 9th

7:30 to 8:45 Breakfast, prepared by local Boy Scout Troop.

9 a.m. to 9:40 "Unruly, Unreliable, and Unsuccessful: Confederate Cavalry in the Shenandoah Valley," Robert K. Krick.

10 a.m. to 10:40 "The Valley War in Modern Memory," Evan Jones.

11 a.m. to Noon "Preservation in the Shenandoah Valley," Robert K. Krick.

Noon Lunch.

1 p.m. Wrapping - up



ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR
Sesquicentennial Commission

SEE YOU TUESDAY NIGHT

for Dr. Foote

GOD BLESS AMERICA

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