

THE DRUM & BUGLE

Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table

Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table Newsletter

July 2017, Volume 14, Issue 7

Speaker: Edward Cole Bearss'
Topic: "Hardluck Ironclad – The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo"
When: Monday, July 10, 2017
Location: Brock's Riverside Grill
Times: Social Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 p.m.

Abstract on Ed Bearss' our Scheduled Speaker

Our scheduled speaker for July's dinner meeting will be our old friend, Ed Bearss.' Ed is recognized today as the nation's premier storyteller of the American Civil War. He will be presenting "*Hardluck Ironclad – The Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*". The following are a few notable facts about Ed Bearss'; he was born and raised in the state of Montana and he served in the 3rd Marine Raider Battalion during World War II. Ed was badly wounded by machine gun fire at Suicide Creek, New Britain. After a lengthy recuperation period, Ed went on to earn a bachelor's degree at Georgetown University, along with a master's degree from Indiana University.

It is interesting to note that a visit to Shiloh National Military Park demonstrated to Ed the importance of merging the study of the Civil War with an examination of the actual ground upon which battles were fought. This visit to Shiloh sparked Ed's interest in a career with the National Park Service. Thus Ed began a 40 year career at Vicksburg culminating with his becoming the Chief Historian of the United States Park Service in 1981. In 1994, Ed became special assistant to the director of the National Park Service. His battlefield tours are today world renowned and Ed is the author of many books and magazine articles.

The Union gunboat *Cairo* struck a Confederate torpedo on the Yazoo River near Vicksburg, Mississippi. This was on December 12, 1862, the *Cairo* sank in twelve minutes. Ed Bearss' rediscovered and salvaged the *Cairo* along with thirteen cannon, in the process he learned "*how not to raise an ironclad.*"

Reminder: Please contact Bob Jones to order your dinner in advance and to confirm reservations: Telephone Bob Jones @ 540-399-1702 or send an e-mail to cwrtdinner@yahoo.com or bobnpeg1954@gmail.com

" Morality or War Experience? "

(Definition and Treatment of Mental Illness in the Union Army)

Presented by Dr. Kathleen Logothetis Thompson

A review of our June 12, 2017, program by John Sapanara

Dr. Kathleen Logothetis Thompson focused her presentation on how mental trauma and insanity were treated within the Union Army during and after the Civil War. Doctors of this era understood the existence of insanity and they had developed some measures to treat it, but believed it to be the result of hereditary, moral or physical weakness. They did not fully recognize or acknowledge the impact of battlefield experiences or the effect of war service in general on the mental state of soldiers.

Dr. Thompson cited multiple examples of trauma experienced by Union combatants. Albert Frank ran toward enemy lines muttering "Frank (referring to himself) is killed, Frank is killed" after a fellow soldier next to him was hit by artillery. Francis Thompson was completely paralyzed after a cannonball went right under him without exploding. Soldiers like this sometimes recovered in the field, while others broke down and had to be sent to the Government Hospital for the Insane (GHI) in Washington, DC.

GHI was the result of a new professionalized area of psychiatry and reflected some basic understanding of mind disorders. Treatment protocols demonstrated that a link between such disorders and the horrific experiences of combat were not recognized. Insanity was thought to be due to a genetic defect or a flaw in the moral or physical nature of the soldier. Rehabilitation could be hastened by "moral treatment," applying a structured environment emphasizing religion, amusement and hard work. Physical medical practices, emphasizing the use of controlled bleeding, purging, cupping and special diets, were also thought to be curative. In many cases, these treatments did nothing to help traumatized soldiers get better.

A common Civil War diagnosis was "nostalgia" or a temporary feeling of depression. This condition was thought to be caused by homesickness, physical hardship or prolonged inactivity. Two types of soldiers were especially affected: Young men "of feeble will and strong sexual desire," and married men absent from their families.

Specific Union Army regulations were created to deal with such disorders. General Order 98 prescribed that an affected soldier be sent to GHI, to undergo "moral treatment" then go back to his unit. Others could be sent to state asylums, be sent home or not be treated at all. It was official policy by 1864 that such soldiers could go to state asylums (every state had one) without being

considered deserters. Many cases fell through the cracks for a variety of reasons. Men were needed in the front lines and commanders could not afford to lose them. Surgeons did not know how to diagnose mind disorders; Many surgeons believed that a mentally ill soldier was simply a cowardly malingerer.

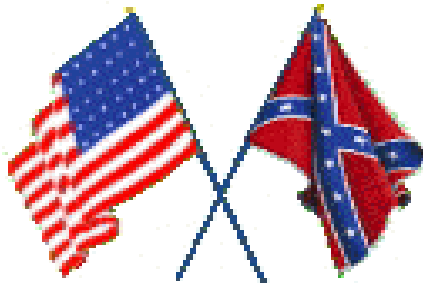
Army doctors authored books on how to identify malingerers. Since symptoms of mental illness were not fully understood, any traumatized soldier was simply labeled a malingerer in cases of doubt. Such soldiers often stayed in their units even as their condition deteriorated. It was widely believed that patriotism could prevent insanity, which was brought on by “bad moral habits” in camp. GHI doctors recorded that a recruit who lacked mental discipline could involuntarily betray his country and his comrades. A Kentucky asylum used a standardized form for classifying mental illness as either a moral or physical cause. These situations reflected a rise in psychiatric awareness, but a clear lack of knowledge of the link between wartime experience and mental trauma.

Dr. Thompson concluded her presentation by using a chart showing the evolution of the overall medical understanding, from the termed “insanity” of the American Civil War, through the “shellshock” and “combat stress” of both World Wars, to the modern day treatments of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury. Today’s medical practices reflect significant advances over the rudimentary work that was begun during the 1860’s, to deal with combat stress.

The Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg

By Bob Jones

As a courtesy, the RVCWRT provides as a regular feature every month, the ongoing scheduled speakers for the CWRTF’s Program Year. The *Civil War Round Table of Fredericksburg* normally meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except for the meeting held on the third Wednesday of June 2017). Their Dinner Meetings are held at the MWW’s Jepson Center located at 1119 Hanover Street, Fredericksburg, VA, the dinner cost is \$32.00 for each person. Advance reservations should be made by telephoning 540-361-2105. As noted below, their scheduled speaker for the scheduled September 27, 2017, meeting will be James R. (Bud) Robertson who will present “Robert E. Lee and the Quest for Peace.”



CWRTF's Scheduled Speakers For the 2017 Program Year

Sept. 27, 2017 James R. (Bud) Robertson – Robert E. Lee and the Quest for Peace

Oct. 25, 2017 Eric Buckland – Mosby's Men

Nov. 15, 2017 Robert Lee Hodge – Filming the Civil War with Historical Accuracy, Part 2

The RVCWRT Bulletin Board

By Jim Smithfield

The RVCWRT maintains a special bulletin board that is placed against the right side wall where dinner guests enter the dining room. This Bulletin Board is utilized during each of our dinner meetings. Members will find many different articles about the Civil War placed there. These are there to be requested by members for personal reading. Also, there is information posted on the bulletin board on upcoming Civil War related events, along with various items of interest. Along with the various posted announcements, Civil War articles and related material will be placed there. These items may each be requested or borrowed by members to take home and read.

RVCWRT History Alert Program

by Jim Smithfield

RVCWRT member Alan Zirkle, provides a totally free service, which notifies subscribers about any/all upcoming local history events, i.e., in the Fredericksburg general area. This is done via subscribers recorded e-mail address, it concerns upcoming history-related events. RVCWRT members can receive Alan's important messages. If you do not now, but would like to receive Alan Zirkle's "*History Alerts*" please send your e-mail address to Alan noting this fact to him at az@azirkle.com.

Did You Know?

By Jim Smithfield

Did You Know . . . That former Confederate soldier, William B. Goolrick founded and opened the first Goolrick's Drugstore in 1867 at 901 Caroline Street in downtown Fredericksburg. The building housing Goolrick's was built in the early 1800's and prior to it being a Drugstore it was used for various other purposes.

Adapted from an article in the 2017 Fredericksburg Guidebook

Goolrick's Drugstore on Caroline Street was sold recently and will continue to be known by the name *Goolrick's Modern Pharmacy*. The new owner is Christopher Conder, a pharmacist from Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Conder purchased Goolrick's in late 2016, and this is only the fourth time since 1867, a

full 150 years, that this business and the building housing it have been sold since begun by ex-Confederate Civil War veteran, William B. Goolrick. It was in the year 1867, when the drug store was founded. Keep in mind, that in the year 1867, most pharmaceutical remedies were mixed by hand and packaged right there in the drugstore.

It's fascinating to note, that the soda fountain and lunch counter did not begin operation until the year 1912, and yet, they're said to be the oldest in continued existence today. The question is, where else can you get homemade soup, chili and fresh-squeezed lemonade, cream cheese and olive sandwiches on wheat toast, with an egg cream (carbonated water, milk, and chocolate syrup-no, but no egg or cream)? Goolrick's counter staff uses real milk, ice cream, syrup and carbonated water to make milk shakes, malted milks, sodas and what many people still believe are the best cherry cokes ever.

All of Goolrick's sandwiches are served with a pickle and chips and their desserts include, various pies. ice cream and a full selection of candies. When most other eateries in Fredericksburg are closed, i.e., on any given Monday, Goolrick's is open for business as usual. The pharmacy still compounds prescriptions and they will even flavor medicines for children or for any pets, who do not like the taste of their meds.

In the mid-1960's, the then owner wanted his business to look and sound more modern. So, in the mid-sixties he had the storefront remodeled to a more modern style and changed the name to *Goolrick's Modern Pharmacy*. Let's all hope that this independent pharmacy will be around for still another 150 years. The new owner is looking to the future, but he is also looking back at the founder, ex-Confederate soldier, William B. Goolrick, to lead him forward in ways to serve the Fredericksburg Community.

Membership **By Bob Pfile**

Note: After an extensive campaign of contacting members through telephone use and individual mailings, our RVCWRT membership now reflects 118 total members.

Who we are?

The *Drum and Bugle Newsletter* is published monthly, by the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table, Post Office Box 7632, Fredericksburg, VA 22404. Each month, The Drum and Bugle newsletter is also placed on our web-site, www.RVCWRT.org. Yearly membership dues are \$35.00 for individuals, \$45.00 for families, and only \$7.50 for students. Membership is open to anyone interested in the study of the Civil War and the ongoing preservation of Civil War sites.

The RVCWRT Executive Committee:

President/Dinner Meeting:	Bob Jones	Webmaster:	Dan Augustine
Vice President:	John Sapanara	Membership:	Ryan Quint
Secretary:	Ben Keller	Research/Historian:	Joyce Darr
Treasurer:	Bob Pfile	Member at Large:	John Griffiths
Assistant Treasurer:	Barbara Stafford	Member at Large:	Conway Richardson
Meeting Scribe:	Greg Mertz	Member at Large:	Paul Stier
Newsletter Editor:	Jim Smithfield	Past President:	Marc Thompson

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