



THE DRUM & BUGLE
Voice of the Rappahannock Valley Civil War Round Table
October 2023, Volume 20, Issue 10

Speaker: John Roos
Topic: “Remembrance and Memory: John Reynolds and How Civil War Figures are Remembered”
When: Monday October 9, 2023
Location: Brock’s Riverside Grill
Times: Social Time Begins 6:00 pm, Dinner 6:45 pm, Meeting Begins 7:30 pm
Our Website: www.rappvalleycivilwar.org
Our Facebook: www.facebook.com/rvcwrt

John Roos “Remembrance and Memory: John Reynolds and How Civil War Figures are Remembered”

John Roos is a 2018 graduate of Southern New Hampshire University with a BA in American history. He is in his final two classes for his MA at the same school and same major. He received his teaching license from Shenandoah University. He is currently a 7th grade English teacher at Culpeper Middle School. He is also a former intern with the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania

Military Park. He worked at two other parks for the NPS over the course of 2017-2018. He and his wife Sarah moved to Fredericksburg in 2019. He also is a battlefield guide for Battlefield Tours of Virginia, which is owned by fellow round table member, John Kanaster. He specializes in the Fredericksburg area battlefields, and also Mine Run, North Anna, Haw's Shop, Totopotomoy Creek, Cold Harbor, and the Seven Days. He has a couple articles published on the Emerging Civil War blog page.

General John Reynolds is a perfect case study for looking at how Civil War figures are remembered today. Are the words we use to remember these men and women accurate? Are they just common opinion, or has the idea of popular history taken such a hold on memory of the Civil War, that we just follow what the pop history historians tell us? These the questions John will have us ponder.

“A Keystone Rebel: The Civil War Diary of Joseph Garey”

by David A. Welker

A Review of the September 2023 Program by Greg Mertz

Joseph Garey was born in 1839 in Berlin, Pennsylvania, into a prosperous family. His father was a veteran of the War of 1812. Education was valued and the children were sent to school, with Joseph's older brother Henry becoming a doctor. Joseph accompanied Henry to a community in northwest Mississippi in need of a doctor, and when their adopted state seceded from the Union, this keystone state native joined the rebel army. As our speaker David Welker noted, the young man who started keeping a diary of his Civil War experiences would not be the same person who completed it. The wartime experiences of Joseph Garey would change him.

Welker was taken by the descriptive writing of Garey, as well as the fact that he recorded what he felt. The diary stood out from among the many such diaries that are dry recitals of the day's events, lacking in observations or insights.

Garey joined the Confederate army in January, 1861, before the war had actually begun, and on the last day of the month gave an example of his perceptions by writing that the day was quiet except for the ringing of a blacksmith at work. Joseph expressed in the diary how he longed for the day when he would see battle and feel the glory that experience was sure to bring.

Joseph belonged to a Mississippi artillery unit, Captain Hudson's Battery. Early in the war, he was startled by the sound of the bugle, as his battery hooked up the horses to their guns and caissons, and rode off to New Madrid, Missouri, on the Mississippi River. Along the way, the artillerymen met a stream of civilians heading in the other direction, seeking refuge from the danger apparently in store for their town. But it ended up being a false alarm, and the Mississippians returned to their camp without the experience of their first battle.

By September 14, 1861, Joseph was across the Mississippi River in Kentucky, on the march from Columbus to Mayfield. The troops were met by the waving of handkerchiefs to welcome them, a noted contrast to their treatment by civilians in Missouri, who were anxious to see what they could take from the Confederate soldiers.

The battery was next stationed in Bowling Green, Kentucky, assigned to a brigade commanded by Gen. John S. Bowen. There, the diary of Garey took a decided turn, as he became disillusioned by the evils of camp life, of which he wrote that sin was almost a necessity. He now prayed for an end to the war, because it would also mean an end to the wickedness he was witnessing. While he had expected to experience the glory of combat, he noted of camp life, that this was not glory.

Garey's chance at being in a fight came on April 6, 1862 at the battle of Shiloh. He commenced to write about it in his diary on April 9. Early in the battle, the Confederates captured Federal camps, and Joseph wrote of how the blue-clad soldiers live in elegant style. Though Garey thought the enemy fought desperately, he observed that southern valor prevailed. Only the Federal gunboats on the Tennessee River forced the Confederates back into the former Federal camps. The battery was hotly engaged, losing 4 killed – including Capt. Alfred Hudson, 12 wounded, and 4 horses disabled. Shiloh brought along another change of tone in Joseph's diary. The joy of military life had passed.

In May, 1862 the Confederate government had changed the terms of enlistment, which particularly caused bitterness among those whose one-year terms of enlistment were about to expire. Joseph felt that many of those who would have volunteered to fight until the end of the war, would desert instead, now that they were being forced to stay in the army. Garey felt the

decision by the government was very unjust, but they would have to put up with it. On May 11, Joseph wrote that he longed to hear the sound of a church bell in the morning instead of the sound of the bugle.

After Shiloh, Lieut. James L. Hoole took over command of the battery, which fought in the battle of Baton Rouge, under Gen. John C. Breckinridge. The battery was present but not engaged in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi. The gunners were stationed for a while at Port Hudson, Louisiana, but then were pulled out to augment the garrison at Vicksburg. The battery fought at the battle of Big Black River in the Vicksburg Campaign, and then withdrew inside the Vicksburg fortifications where they endured the May 22-July 4 siege and surrender of Vicksburg. Joseph was among those captured and paroled, being sent to a parole camp. (Note: At Vicksburg, the battery was attached to Brig. Gen. Seth M. Barton's brigade, in Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson's division. Both of those generals are buried in the Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery.)

Joseph's brother Henry convinced him that the Confederate cause was hopeless. Joseph deserted from the Confederate army and went back to Pennsylvania for the duration of the war. Apparently, none of Joseph's brothers who stayed in Pennsylvania served in the Federal army.

After the war ended, Joseph lived in Memphis, writing how the Negroes were enfranchised and the rebels were disenfranchised, and how southerners under the military governors had no freedom of speech. Joseph never married and died in 1884 at about the age of 45.

Friends of Central Virginia Battlefield Trust

As you know CVBT is a land trust. We focus on purchasing endangered battlefield properties. We do produce a large three-day annual conference, standalone events and need to interpret and maintain our lands, we need help in all of these. In the past, CVBT has had individuals from organizations assist us, and we are grateful, but now we would like to create an official volunteer group who would enjoy being part of CVBT's volunteer core.

We have created "**The Friends of CVBT.**" The intent is for this all-volunteer group is to be the "On Call" core of CVBT's volunteer group assisting in events and battlefield related needs. Active volunteer members will have the

unique opportunity to be involved with events hosted by nationally acclaimed historians, assist in tours, and work on preserved battlefields. Participating volunteers will also be enrolled in the membership ranks of CVBT every year they contribute. CVBT will provide each volunteer with a CVBT volunteer staff shirt and CVBT official hat to wear at events or whenever wanted. We will be limiting this new group to 18 volunteers.

CVBT is now beginning our 27th year of preserving our local battlefields, the very battlefields you study and walk upon. We would be honored to have you join the ranks of CVBT volunteers to help us further our mission of preserving our Nation's history.

If interested please email our Executive Director **Terry Rensel** at executivedirector@cvbt.org .

Office: 540-374-0900

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF FREDERICKSBURG (CWRTF)

CWRTF meets 9 times a year on designated Wednesdays at Mary Washington Jepson Alumni Executive Center, 1119 Hanover Street. They offer a buffet dinner followed by a Civil War-themed presentation. Reservations are required. Speaker/topic schedule can be found on their website at www.cwrftf.org, as well as below.

CWRTF Schedule

September 27, 2023 – Greg Mertz, JACKSON IS WITH YOU: THE BATTLE OF CEDAR MOUNTAIN

October 25, 2023 - Sarah Kay Bierle, THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK

November 15, 2023 - Ken Rutherford, AMERICA'S BURIED HISTORY: LANDMINES IN THE CIVIL WAR

January 24, 2024 – Bert Dunkerly, THE BROWN'S ISLAND EXPLOSION

February 28, 2024 – Scott Boyd, *THE HUNLEY*

March 27, 2024 – Christian Keller, SOUTHERN STRATEGIES

April 24, 2024 – Doug Crenshaw, RICHMOND SHALL NOT BE GIVEN UP

May 22, 2024 – Gary Gallagher, PATHWAYS TO NEW NATIONAL LOYALTY

June 19, 2024 – Paul Brueske, THE LAST SIEGE: THE 1865 MOBILE CAMPAIGN

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. The newsletter is available on our website at www.rappvalleycivilwar.org. Yearly membership dues are \$40 for individuals and \$50 for families. Students are free. Membership is open to anyone interested in the military, political and social history of the American Civil War.

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