

Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation

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Princeton University

Mark Your Calendar

**April 26, 2003
(Saturday, 10-4):** Tredegar Center cosponsors Richmond Civil War Day at the ironworks with Richmond National Battlefield Park and the Richmond Historic Riverfront Foundation. Bring the kids for living history, music, reenactments, and a host of other activities. For more information, call 226-1981.

2003: Throughout the year, the Blue and Gray Education Society will offer Civil War battlefield tours, symposia, and seminars. Watch your mail for the BGES 2003 *Calendar of Events*. For more information, call 1-888-741-BGES or visit the BGES Web site at www.blue-and-gray-education.org.

TREDEGAR NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTER FOUNDATIONSM

Union, Home, Freedom – Tracing the Stories of the Civil War...

newsletter

Issue No. 2 Winter 2002



John H. Motley

Motley Elected Board Chairman

John H. Motley, of Burlington, Connecticut, was elected chairman of the Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation Board at the December 6, 2002, board meeting in Richmond. He replaces chairman emeritus Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. Motley, most recently a senior vice president of Travelers Insurance, is now president of the Travelers Foundation. He is also a

noted collector of African American military memorabilia and has donated his Civil War collection to the Tredegar Center.

Motley said that among his avocations, seeing the Center created is his highest priority. "I'm passionate about this project and that it's happening in Richmond," he said. "It's the right time, the right place, and the right project." □

Admiral Gravely Honored

The Tredegar Center honored retired Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., with a dinner in the Tredegar Gun Foundry on October 25, 2002, as he reluctantly stepped down as chairman of the Tredegar Foundation Board of Directors because of ill health. About 100 invited guests attended the event, at which Dr. James M. McPherson, Congressman Bobby Scott, and Senator John Warner spoke admirably of Admiral Gravely's devotion to his country and to the Tredegar Center's mission. Senator Warner, who was undersecretary of the Navy when Gravely became the nation's first African American admiral, presented him with a letter of commendation from President George W. Bush. John Motley announced the creation of the Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Prize, to be given to a person who in the opinion of the Foundation board has made a notable contribution to promoting a greater public appreciation of the meaning of American democracy. Admiral Gravely, with his wife, Alma, beside him, responded with gratitude and a charge to his fellow directors to make the Tredegar Center a reality. □



Vice Adm. Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. (right), with wife Alma and Congressman Bobby Scott

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Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Vice
Adm. USN Ret.
Haymarket, Virginia

President's Letter

H. Alexander Wise, Jr.

As we enter this holiday season and reflect on the past year—its challenges and accomplishments—we have much to be thankful for. Our expanded leadership and new strategic partners have enabled us to leverage the tremendous assets already in place for the project so that we are now on the verge of bringing the vision of the Tredegar National Civil War Center to reality. Our capital campaign is moving forward, even in this challenging economic climate, and planning for the facility and programming is advancing. But perhaps most significant is our growing constituency.

Our recent workshop on the legacies of the American Civil War resulted in a truly remarkable and constructive dialog among individuals with a wide and often contradictory view of this decisive event in our history. Participants expressed pain, sorrow, fear, pride, anger, and, most importantly, hope for a new and more inclusive understanding of the war. We are encouraged by this because a fundamental principle of our project is that the story of the American Civil War is “our

story.” It’s the defining moment in American history, when we charted a course for the future as one nation indivisible. It has and will continue to be our desire, our goal, to initiate a national dialog on what the American Civil War means to us today—its causes, conduct, and consequences—and to educate all Americans about the significance of *the* most defining moment in our history, when a *new* nation was forged.

This honest exploration of the American Civil War has attracted attention across our nation from Hartford to Atlanta, Charlotte to Chicago, and Cincinnati to New York. The interest and enthusiasm in our story is yet another testimony that this is in fact the right project, the right place, and the right time. We are excited about our progress and invigorated by the challenges ahead. Stay tuned! We will be reporting progress on key milestones in the coming months and want you to continue to be a part of our success. Until then, on behalf of the board and staff, I wish you a safe and happy holiday season. □

New Members Join Board

The Foundation Board elected six new members at its December 6, 2002, meeting. Beverly M. “Bo” DoBose III, of Atlanta, Georgia, is president of DuBose-Jones, Inc., a privately held real-estate development company, and co-owner with his family of one of the country’s largest collections of Civil War artifacts. Robert M. Freeman, of Richmond, Virginia, is the retired chairman and CEO of Signet Bank (now a part of Wachovia Bank). Mack C. Gaston, of Centreville, Virginia, a retired rear admiral, is currently Vice President, Global Defense, for Electronic Data Systems, of Plano, Texas. Robert N. Mayer, Ph.D., of Chicago, Illinois, an authority on charitable organizations, teaches at Northwestern University, and is a noted collector of Civil War presentation swords. Elisabeth S. Muhlenfeld, Ph.D., is president of Sweet Briar College, near Lynchburg, Virginia, and is the biographer of noted Civil War diarist Mary Boykin Chesnut. John W. Rosenblum, of Crozet, Virginia, is Dean Emeritus of The Darden School, University of Virginia, and has served on many corporate boards. □

Telling the Story

James M. McPherson, Ph.D., George Henry Davis '86 Professor of History,
Princeton University

Over the years, I have been involved in many Civil War preservation and interpretive projects. All were important, but this one may well be the most important. The concept, and the place where it will be executed, is exactly right. This project will be different from all others, and will make a vital contribution to our understanding of the Civil War.

That war was probably the pivotal event in our history, even more important, perhaps, than the American Revolution. The Revolution and the Constitution left unresolved two crucial questions that threatened to divide and destroy the creation of the Founding Fathers. First, whether this fragile experiment in the republican form of government and the democratic form of participation in government would survive the divisive pressures that threatened to tear it apart. And second, the question of the place of slavery in a nation founded on the proposition that all men are created with an equal right to liberty.

These cross-cutting issues and unresolved questions *did* tear the country apart in 1861, leading to a terrible war that killed almost as many Americans as all of the other wars this country has fought combined. But the outcome of that war resolved those festering issues and laid the groundwork for the growth of the United States into the world’s foremost democratic nation, indivisible and free.

To tell that story, we need to view the Civil War from multiple perspectives: the Union

perspective, the Confederate perspective, and the African American perspective. And that’s exactly what the Tredegar National Civil War Center proposes to do. No other place does it or can do it as effectively as we will be able to do it at the Tredegar Iron Works. Richmond was the nerve center of the Confederacy, not only the Confederate capital but the industrial center of Confederate war production, and the ironworks was the core of that center. Richmond was the supply base of the Confederacy’s most important and successful army. Richmond’s capture was the chief objective of Union military strategy, and when Richmond finally did fall after four bloody years of repeated efforts, the fall of the Confederacy itself came soon after. Some forty-three battles took place within a thirty-mile radius of Richmond, making it by far the most contested city in the history of this hemisphere. It was the only leading Southern city that Abraham Lincoln visited. When he went there on April 4, 1865, the symbolism of that visit was unmistakable. Lincoln was greeted with enthusiasm and reverence by Richmond’s African American population, which had contributed more to the war economy of Richmond than to any other Confederate city.

For all these reasons and more, the Tredegar Iron Works is an authentic Civil War site. It is also a magnificent setting and the best place in the country to tell the story of the Civil War from all three perspectives, and I am proud to be associated with this undertaking. □

Congressional Advisory Board Created

To further define the Tredegar Center project as national in scope, Foundation president Alex Wise and board chairman John Motley have recruited several members of Congress to serve on our Congressional Advisory Board. Charter members include Virginia senators John Warner and George Allen, Mississippi senator Thad Cochran, Virginia representatives Bobby Scott and Eric Cantor, Illinois representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Connecticut representative John D. Larson. Additional members will be recruited after Congress reconvenes in January 2003. □

National Advisory Board

Adele L. Alexander, Ph.D.
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Columbus, Ohio

William A. Blair, Ph.D.
State College, Pennsylvania

Bill Bradley
New York, New York

Sen. Thad Cochran
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Richmond, Virginia

Harold Holzer, Ph.D.
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James O. Horton, Ph.D.
Washington, D.C.

Daniel P. Jordan, Ph.D.
Charlottesville, Virginia

Cynthia A. MacLeod
Richmond, Virginia

James M. McPherson, Ph.D.
Princeton, New Jersey

Richard Moe
Washington, D.C.

Roger Mudd
McLean, Virginia

Frank E. Petersen, Lt. Gen. USMC Ret.
Stevensville, Maryland

Heather Cox Richardson, Ph.D.
Winchester, Massachusetts

James I. Robertson, Jr., Ph.D.
Blacksburg, Virginia

Nina Silber, Ph.D.
Boston, Massachusetts

Emory M. Thomas, Ph.D.
Athens, Georgia

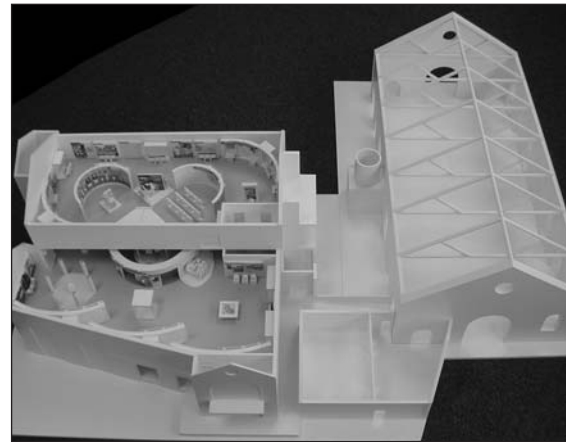
Edgar A. Toppin, Ph.D.
Richmond, Virginia

Design for Center Nearing Completion

David H. Dutton, Chief Operating Officer

At its fall meeting, the Foundation Board of Directors endorsed the new design for the Center. Under the guidance of the Board's design committee, Center staff and architects from Marcellus Wright Cox & Smith developed schematic plans for construction of a new 21,000-square-foot facility to house the exhibition, retail, and visitor services functions. The new facility will allow the Gun Foundry building to be maintained in its existing state and used as

flexible-programming and event-rental space, bringing the total programmable square footage for the first phase of the Center to approximately 28,000 square feet. The design committee and staff will complete the design development process in the coming months by further refining the building's look and materials. □



Exhibition model (PRD Group Ltd.)



Second-floor concept (PRD Group Ltd.)



Architectural rendering of proposed facility (Marcellus Wright Cox & Smith Architects PC)

Exhibition Design Plan

Doug Harvey, Director of Museum Services

The Tredegar National Civil War Center's new museum building will contain three floors of exhibits about the causes, conduct, and legacies of the Civil War. Artifacts borrowed from some of the finest collections in the nation will be supplemented with photographs, documents, exhibits, interactive programs, and audiovisual presentations to tell the whole story of the conflict that shaped our nation.

The exhibition will begin on the third floor and will introduce the three main participants in that story—Northern, Southern, and African American—and examine the multiple and complex causes of the war. Visitors will find most of the saga of the war itself on the second floor, while the ground-floor exhibit will present the climactic last days of the conflict in a mini-theater

setting. Then comes the most sensitive and difficult part of our history to grapple with: the war's legacies, which continue to affect us today in many ways. The final section will ask visitors to share their thoughts about the war and its effects.

A museum store and other visitor amenities will also be located on the ground floor. The new structure will be connected to the historic Gun Foundry Building and to the Pattern Office Building where the Tredegar Café is located. With the Tredegar Center, National Park Service Visitor Center, and eight acres of historic campus, visitors will discover that a great deal of American history is available along the James River at Tredegar. □

German Ambassador Speaks



German Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger

His Excellency Wolfgang Ischinger, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United States, spoke on August 23, 2002, to fifty invited guests at a breakfast held in the Ethyl Corporation dining room. He came to Richmond at the invitation of H. Alexander Wise, Jr., president of the Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation, to talk about Germany's efforts to deal with its past and how Richmond could benefit from that experience. Among the guests were Richmond Mayor Rudolph C. McCollum, Jr., State Senator Benjamin Lambert, Delegate Viola Baskerville, William H. Leighty (Governor Mark Warner's chief of staff), and Greater Richmond Partnership president Greg Wingfield. Ambassador Ischinger's remarks were warmly received, and Mayor McCollum presented him with a gift from the city. □

Center Signs Pact with BGES

H. Alexander Wise, Jr., president of the Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation, and William "Corky" Lowe, president of the Blue and Gray Education Association, signed an agreement on October 24 in Richmond to cooperate on educational programming and promote each others' projects. The BGES, a Civil War education and battlefield preservation group, is known for its excellent battlefield tours and lectures. Watch your mailbox for the BGES *Spring-Summer 2003 Calendar of Events*, which we will mail to you soon. □



Tredegar National Civil War Center Foundation president Alex Wise (left) and BGES president William "Corky" Lowe prepare to sign agreement.

Legacies Workshop Held

On Saturday, October 26, 2002, the Tredegar Center held a day-long workshop in the Tredegar Gun Foundry entitled *A New Nation Forged: Legacies of America's Civil War*. An audience of about 100 not only heard panels composed of some of the nation's premier scholars talk about the legacies, but participated with questions and comments. The lively discussion was videotaped and transcribed, and will be used to help design the concluding portion of the Center's permanent exhibition that deals with the aftereffects of the Civil War still touching us today. During lunch, the audience and the panelists were treated to a special half-hour video preview of the new movie *Gods and Generals*, the prequel to *Gettysburg*. The movies' director, Ron Maxwell, presented the video and spoke about the making of *Gods and Generals*. Evaluations received from audience members indicated that they found the workshop enlightening and appreciated the opportunity to participate as well as listen. The workshop was funded in part by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy and a donation from Dominion Resources. □



Audience member addresses workshop panel.

Doug Harvey Joins Center Staff

We are delighted that Douglas K. Harvey joined us on July 1. He is a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, and holds degrees in history, English, education, and historic preservation. He has worked in Virginia museums since 1982 and has served as Director of the Manassas Museum System, Director of Operations at Pamplin Historical Park, and Associate Executive Director for The Museum of the Confederacy.

In Manassas, his major projects included the creation of a new museum facility, the preservation of Civil War resources in the city, and the development of the Jennie Dean Memorial to honor this former slave who founded a school for African American students in Manassas in 1893. He also played lead roles at Pamplin Historical Park and the Museum of the Confederacy in coordinating exhibits, restoring historic structures, producing publications, and developing educational programming. □

Museum Loan Progress

Doug Harvey, Director of Museum Services

Rather than build a story around a collection, the Tredegar Center will build its collection around the story of the Civil War. We are able to do so by identifying and borrowing high-quality artifacts from museums across the nation. Most museums see the benefit of lending and borrowing items and actively seek artifacts from other institutions to supplement their own collections for exhibition.

Since July 2002, we have initiated discussions with several potential lending institutions. We have received encouraging responses from museums such as the Museum of the

Confederacy, Lee Chapel, VMI, Virginia War Memorial, The Manassas Museum System, Smithsonian Institution, Chicago Historical Society, Minnesota History Center, Atlanta History Center, and Louisiana State Museum.

Loans will allow us to bring significant pieces of American history to the Tredegar Center. The John Motley Collection of African American militaria gives us a stellar base on which to build. Through the generosity of our fellow institutions, we will add to that base and show nationally important objects to our visitors while telling the whole story of the American Civil War. □