



THE PIG & SNAKE

News from the Executive Director

“Who are the Pigs, and who are the Snakes?”

October 1998

Volume 2, Number 2

THE DIGITAL PHONE SYSTEM IS COMPLETE!

The McWhiney Foundation now has new telephone numbers. Please update your records as follows:

Main number: (915) 793-3862

Fax: (915) 793-3866

PATHBREAKING WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

The Future of Confederate History Workshop, held September 25-27, 1998, seems to have accomplished much. Its purpose was to establish and engage a dialogue between history professionals and lay people about issues of concern to educators and informed citizens regarding the legacy of the American phenomenon known as “The Confederacy.” This forum was to identify and suggest areas of investigation and scholarship for future endeavors including publishing projects and symposia.

Our keynote speaker was Charlie Roland, who shared stories from his years as a professional historian. Other speakers included David Paul Smith, of Dallas, who spoke on the Civil War on the Northwest Texas Frontier, and Robert Maberry who did a presentation on the conservation work now underway on Texas flags.

The Summerlee Foundation of Dallas provided funding for the workshop, as did a number of individuals including Grady McWhiney, Claude P. Foster, Eugene Genovese, William Hayden, Stanley Hirshson, Mike Konczak, Paul Lack, Howard McClurkin, Fred Morse, Mike Parrish, Jeff Prushankin, Ray Richey, and Mike Stevens. **Based on the feedback we received from the first Future of Confederate History Workshop, we will be seeking funding for a follow-up workshop of a similar nature to be held in Abilene next September. Keep the last two weekends in September open on your calendars.** Also, for those interested, we video and audio taped the entire proceedings. Parties interested in transcripts of the the afternoon overview sessions should contact this office. During the workshop, our guests divided into the following eight topic groups:

I. Artifacts and Manuscripts

This workshop focused its attention on museums, artifact collectors, heirlooms, diaries, letters, and other physical culture of the Confederacy. Bob Maberry, of Texas Christian University, was the facilitator.

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II. Past Trends and the Current State of Civil War Historiography

This workshop discussed the historiography of the Confederacy. Steven Woodworth of Texas Christian University served as facilitator.

III. Site Preservation

The process of site preservation was the focus of this workshop. Richard Bruce Winders, Historian and Curator at the Alamo, led this group.

IV. Social History of the Confederacy

This workshop assessed the current trends in Confederate social history. Robert Pace of Longwood College served as facilitator.

V. Reconstruction and the Confederate Legacy

Attendees examined the various interpretations of Reconstruction and discussed the impact of the Confederacy on the nation in light of issues—both resolved and unresolved—that linger on to the present. Richard Lowe of the University of North Texas oversaw this group.

VI. Confederate Symbols

This session, ably led by Tom Mays of Quincy University, discussed the current state of Confederate symbols, the controversy surrounding them, and their place in the future.

VII. Military History of the Civil War

This session, under the oversight of Anne Bailey of Georgia College and State University highlighted the military history of the Confederacy. Participants recommended publishing projects, symposia, or other scholarly activities that could be used to educate the general public.

VIII. Confederate Texas

Ed Cotham of The Terry Company led this workshop, which focused on the often-overlooked activities that took place in Texas during the war.

Feedback has been very supportive. From the “Confederate Symbols” session we are already seeing positive results. Here are excerpts from an e-mail I received from George Stone, a producer at KERA, the Dallas PBS station:

“I wanted to let you know about a real world result of the Confederate history conference. When I heard about the effort of a Dallas council member to deny the Confederate reenactors [permission] to march in the Veteran’s Day parade - I took the story to our weekly news show. They had the council member and Jim Dark [the Future of Confederate History Workshop participant] on. The council member had to publicly state that the reenactors were invited to march in the parade.”

“The second half of the show was a roundtable discussion about Southern and Confederate history in the changing urban environs - it was very good and we have received an excellent response.”

GRADY AND SUE MOVE BACK TO FORT WORTH

The week prior to the Future of Confederate History Workshop, Grady and Sue McWhiney moved from Abilene back to Fort Worth. His new address is:

3701 W. Biddison
Fort Worth, Texas
76109

GRADY RECEIVES AWARD

The Dallas Civil War Roundtable has recently announced the establishment of the Grady McWhiney Prize, given for outstanding service in the field of Civil War history. To honor him further, they named him as the first such honoree.

FOUNDATION PRESS GATHERING MOMENTUM

The McWhiney Foundation Press is pleased to announce the release of two new titles in the Campaigns and Commanders series. In August, David Coffey's *John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta* arrived at our distribution warehouse. It has already received positive reviews, and sales have been brisk. In early November, we are expecting to release Clyde Wilson's *The Most Promising Young Man of the South: James Johnston Pettigrew and His Men at Gettysburg*. This spring, we will take advantage of the 100th anniversary of the Vicksburg National Military Park to publish Terry Winschel's *Vicksburg: Fall of the Confederate Gibraltar*. Terry is the park historian and has written an engaging and thorough account of Grant's attempts against that Mississippi River citadel. Through August, we have sold more than 2100 books.

Please, please keep this series in mind when making book adoption decisions. College students seem to love the brief but exciting narrative style of these books.

McWHINEY FOUNDATION PRESS AUTHORS NEWS

David Coffey, who recently relocated to Abilene to help oversee the operations of the press, will be one of the featured authors at the Texas Book Festival on the strength of his first book, *John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta*. This event, held at the capital in Austin every November, honors Texas writers and Texas topics with parties, public presentations, and a reception held at the Governors mansion. David has also been appointed to the interim board for the Texas Forts Trail Heritage Tourism Initiative of the Texas Historical Commission. In that capacity, he will help coordinate the efforts of that state agency's project with the programs and mission of the McWhiney Foundation.

Jeff Kinard's book, *The Battle of the Crater*, has been chosen by the Military Book Club to be reprinted in hardback and distributed through their nationwide system.

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BOOK PRIZE GOES TO BOOK ON BLACK SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

The Second Annual Jerry Coffey Memorial Book Prize this year has been awarded to Noah Andre Trudeau for his book, *Like Men of War: Black Troops in the Civil War, 1862-1865*. He, and his publisher Little, Brown, and Company, will each receive a plaque; the author also receives a check for \$250.

Please mention this prize to your colleagues. We had some thirty-five entries this year, and would like to see more. The prize is awarded to the best work on Nineteenth Century Military History, including superior fiction, published in the precious academic year. The deadline is May 1st.

Four copies of the work should be forwarded to:

The Grady McWhiney Research Foundation
Jerry Coffey Book Prize
Box 637
McMurry University
Abilene, Texas
79697

MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO SPREAD THE WORD

We have finally designed and printed our first foundation mission statement book, entitled "History Done Right." We are using this seventy-page document as a means of introducing ourselves to potential supporters.

We have also begun an annual giving campaign. Supporters are organized into "companies" and "regiments" based on their level of support. If you know of anyone who might be interested in contributing to the work of the McWhiney Foundation, have them contact us at (915) 793-3862. We now have more than a dozen individual enlistees in the Regiment.

MCWHINEY COLLECTION OPENS FOR BUSINESS!

Starting in mid-October, the McWhiney Collection has been opened for serious researchers. Hours are 2-5 P.M.. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The preliminary inventory of the books has been completed, allowing us to move ahead with the organization of this scholarly resource.

REMINDERS

Don't forget to put keep a weekend in September 1998, on your calendars for the Second Annual Future of Confederate History Workshop to be held in Abilene, Texas.

SEE YOU IN BIRMINGHAM

The McWhiney Foundation will **not** be hosting a room reception this year at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Birmingham. Senior Fellows Eugene Genovese and Elizabeth Fox Genovese will be entertaining in their suite, however, and have asked everyone to drop by to learn more about The Historical Society.

Amy Wilson, Josh Winegarner, and Carly Davis will be attending this meeting, so everyone will get a chance to meet the folks that have done so much to bring this foundation into being.

FAMILIAR FACES BID US FAREWELL

Amy Wilson, who has been with us since the beginning in the role of administrative assistant, will be leaving us at the first of next year to pursue graduate studies at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. She will be missed. At this time, plans to replace her are undecided. Carly Davis is planning to be married in January, and will be leaving us the following May to pursue graduate studies. Josh Winegarner will be graduating in May. Our biggest, in fact critical, need in the future is a full-time administrative assistant.

PACE COMES TO McMURRY!

Robert F. Pace will be joining the faculty of McMurry University in the Fall 1999 semester to bolster our presence on that campus and to provide depth of expertise as we continue to consolidate the work of the foundation.

30-SECOND PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Recently a firm here in Abilene put together a thirty-second commercial for cost. We are currently editing it for its final release version, and can make copies available to the membership for the purposes of promoting the foundation. If you know of a television station that might donate air time to a non-profit entity, please let me know.

WE NEED YOUR NEWS (AND WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY JOKES)

If you have news or items of interest to include in this newsletter, please forward them to this office. If you have Wayne State University jokes, you can forward them to David Coffey, at this office.