



HARPERS FERRY

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

PO BOX 389, HARPERS FERRY, WV 25425

Vol. 25 June 2006 No. 10

DATE: Wednesday, June 14th, 2006

TIME: Dinner 7:00 PM; Program 8:00

PLACE: Camp Hill Methodist Church, Harpers Ferry, WV

SPEAKER: Gregg C. Adams & Chuck Krepley

SUBJECT: Music from the Civil War Era

The Subject

Greg C. Adams (banjo) and Chuck Krepley (violin and banjo) perform 19th-Century popular music from the era of the American Civil War. Although Greg and Chuck each play with their own respective groups, ACOUSTIC SHADOWS OF THE BLUE & GRAY (www.acousticshadows.com) and HOME FRONT(www.homefrontmusic.com), the duo often collaborate in an ongoing study of early-to-mid 19th-Century performance practice on their respective instruments. Greg, an archivist working in Washington, DC, is currently working with historian and director of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, George Wunderlich, on a banjo database, documenting all early instances of the banjo from its west-African antecedents through the Civil War Era. Chuck, a former chemist from Pittsburgh, PA, heads the music program at Old Economy Village, a state historical site in Ambridge, PA, where a period orchestra and singers perform music of the 1820s and 1830s from the site's extensive music archives.

The Performers

Greg Adams recently completed graduate school where he earned a Master's in Library and Information Sciences at the University of Maryland, College Park. Greg received his Bachelor of Arts in Music History and Literature from Youngstown State University. He is currently living in Maryland with his wife and is working as an archivist in Washington, D.C. Greg is also heavily involved in a research project that focuses on the history of the early banjo. Greg plays the 5-string banjo and sings lead and tenor vocals in the ranks of the band.

Chuck Krepley has been an historical re-enactor for over 20 years. Chuck is a student of popular music of the 18th and 19th centuries. Combining his love of history and music, he has performed at numerous historical sites in several states. He has also performed by invitation for the respective historical societies of Beaver, Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties in Pennsylvania. Chuck has been a featured speaker in several historical lecture series, bringing history to life through music. Mr. Krepley also enjoys collecting original pre-1865 sheet music. He performs regularly for visitors to Old Economy Village, a Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission site in Ambridge, PA, as Dr. Mueller, the physician and orchestra leader of the Harmony Society. His latest project is the recreation of Dr. Mueller's orchestra, circa 1830, with musicians performing on original period instruments. Chuck is also the music director for the upcoming French and Indian War documentary film, George Washington's First War: The Battles for Fort Duquesne, to be released by Paladin Communications in the spring of 2003. In his spare time, Mr. Krepley is a chemist for PPG Industries in Springdale, PA. He resides in Washington Township, in the northwest corner of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.

Chuck Krepley's banjo was made by the Wunder Banjo Company. The Wunder Banjo Company's goals are to reproduce the most historically accurate and highest quality early to mid 19th century banjos, and to preserve the 19th century sound, music, and style of America's most important folk instrument. The sound produced by our instruments has been tested against original 19th century instruments. Wunder Banjos are correct as well in tone, volume and character. All of the tools, materials, and construction details used in the building of our instruments have been researched and recreated to insure an accurate final product. Our extensive restoration and conservation work on original banjos guarantees this accuracy. Each Wunder Banjo is handcrafted using original instruments and period images as patterns. The result is simply the most accurate reproduction available.

THE MEAL

A family-style meal will be served at 7:00 PM prior to the program. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 per person. Reservations for the meal **must be phoned in no later than Saturday, June 10th**, to Allison Alsdorf, at 304-535-2101 or you can e-mail her at alsdorf@adelphia.net

On this Day, June 14th, Sunday, 1863

Battle of Second Winchester, Virginia

A nervous Washington had ordered or at least suggested strongly that Federal forces under Major General R. H. Milroy at Winchester retreat to Harper's [sic] Ferry. Milroy disagreed, not believing that Lee's army could evade Hooker on the Rappahannock. Waiting too long, Milroy's garrison of about 6900 effectives was attacked late in the day from the west and threatened from the south and east by two divisions of Ewell's Confederate corps.

Early's division succeeded in taking one of the earthworks and severely menaced the main forts. Fearing that Milroy would attempt to escape during the night, Ewell moved Edward Johnson's division to the north and blocked the road toward Harper's [sic] Ferry. Following an evening conference, Milroy decided to withdraw after destroying his wagons and guns. Losses were small in the first day's fighting. Meanwhile, Confederates under Robert E. Rodes of Ewell's corps moved from Berryville to capture Martinsburg, along with seven hundred prisoners, five guns and stores. At Fredericksburg A. P. Hill's corps moved out unopposed to join Lee. (Excerpted from *The Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac 1861 – 1865*, E. B. Long & Barbara Long, published by Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1971)

Wild Rose

Civil War Spy: A True Story, a biography by Ann Blackman

Detective Allan Pinkerton, working under his wartime pseudonym Major E. J. Allen, and Pinkerton's agents tried for months to decipher Rose Greenhow's secret dispatches, many of which they seized when she was arrested in her home on August 23, 1861. They pored over singed and torn scraps of paper that they recovered from her stove and compared copies of letters she kept with others they intercepted when she thought she had charmed her guards into getting messages out for her. Pinkerton, who had been a railway detective not a cryptographer, undoubtedly would have benefited from Mrs. Greenhow's cipher. It was given to her at the start of the war by Thomas Jordan, a U.S. army officer who resigned his commission to join the Confederate forces in his native Virginia. Jordan taught her what he described as a rudimentary cipher, and although she continued to get encrypted messages out after her arrest, he lost confidence in the security of the system and told his superiors some months later to ignore reports written in Mrs. Greenhow's cipher because he feared it had been compromised. It is possible he was able to provide her a replacement during her imprisonment, but that is not clear.

For sheer bravado and style, no woman in the North or South rivaled Rose O'Neale Greenhow. Fearless spy for the Confederacy, glittering Washington hostess, legendary beauty and lover, Rose Greenhow changed the course of the Civil War and risked everything for the cause she valued more than life itself. In this superb portrait, biographer Ann Blackman tells the amazing true story of an almost-forgotten woman who made more history than anyone knew.