

628th REGULAR MEETING

LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT ON
"THE CONFEDERACY'S BEST
CHANCE FOR VICTORY:
ROBERT E. LEE AND THE
BATTLE OF ANNIHILATION"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Wednesday, February 11

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**HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET**

*Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.*

\$30 - Members/Non-members

*Entrée:
Mediterranean Pasta or
Catch of the Day*

(We are offering, on a Trial Basis, the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.)

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6**, by calling Carole Le Claire at **847-698-1438**.

People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

Until the end of the year, parking is at the lot at the corner of Hubbard and Orleans Streets. The hotel is providing shuttle bus service for guests between the lot and the hotel.

Parking is \$8 with a validated parking sticker. Tickets will be validated by the Round Table treasurer at the meeting.

LAWRENCE LEE HEWITT

- on -

**"The Confederacy's Best
Chance for Victory:
Robert E. Lee and the
Battle of Annihilation"**

**A RECONSIDERATION OF
CONFEDERATE STRATEGY**

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

Lawrence Lee Hewitt will address the Round Table on Wednesday, February 11, on the topic of "The Confederacy's Best Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Battle of Annihilation." (Please note that, for the first time, the meeting this month is on a Wednesday.) His presentation will include a slide show based on his research for an upcoming book he is writing, in collaboration with Thomas Schott, author of the definitive biography of Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens.

The book, tentatively titled *The Road to Gettysburg: Lee, Davis, and Confederate Strategy*, will consist of three parts: (1) a historiographical look at "The Lost Cause," focusing on the arguments previously presented regarding why the South lost; (2) a reconsideration of Confederate strategy, building upon the work of Joseph Harsh and carrying it through the Gettysburg campaign; and (3) a reassessment of Lee and his lieutenants during the Gettysburg campaign. In the book and in his presentation to the Round Table, Dr. Hewitt will argue that Lee and Davis thought the Confederacy could win and will describe how they determined to achieve that goal.

In addition to covering the highlights of the research for his book, Hewitt will discuss recent publications dealing with Gettysburg. Despite all that has been written on the subject, he contends that more is needed.



Lawrence Lee Hewitt

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Lawrence Lee Hewitt received his B.A. from the University of Kentucky. After attending graduate school there, where he studied under Charles P. Roland, he transferred to Louisiana State University. Following the death of T. Harry Williams, he completed his dissertation under William J. Cooper, Jr., and received his Ph.D. in 1984.

Past positions include serving as manager of the Port Hudson Historic Site and the Camp Moore Confederate Cemetery and Museum. In 1985, he joined the faculty of Southeastern Louisiana University, and rose to the rank of full professor before retiring in 1996 to marry a resident of Chicago (Round Table member Donni Case). Since relocating to Chicago, Hewitt served for a year as managing editor of *North and South* magazine, coedited *Louisianans in the Civil War* with

Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr., and published numerous articles and book reviews.

His honors include the 1991 Charles L. Dufour Award for outstanding achievements in preserving the heritage of the American Civil War,

bestowed by the Civil War Round Table of New Orleans. That same year he was the recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Research, Southeastern Louisiana University's highest award. Among Hewitt's major publications are *Port Hudson, Confederate Bastion on the Mississippi, The Confederate High Command & Related Topics, Leadership During the Civil War, and 200 Years a Nation*.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
28 East Jackson Building, #10-C817
Chicago, Illinois 60604
Phone: 847-698-1438
www.thecwrt.org

Officers

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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 28 East Jackson Building, #10-C817, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or contact webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

NPS Reports Hurricane Damage to Civil War Sites: Officials of the National Park Service reported major damage to several of their Civil War parks as a result of last September's Hurricane Isabel. In Virginia a combination of torrential downpours and high winds brought down a significant number of trees in several places, among them Fredericksburg, where such an event required the recovery and reburial of the remains of Private James Clarey (57th New York Infantry) in the national cemetery. Falling trees also hurt earthworks at Fredericksburg as well as Petersburg (particularly Fort Fisher) and Richmond. The City Point unit of Petersburg National Battlefield was hit especially hard: it lost a 300-year-old "witness" cedar near Appomattox Manor and suffered \$1 million in damage to the bluff above the James and Appomattox rivers. Meanwhile, a hole over the Crater tunnel eroded further as a result of heavy rains and necessitated emergency repair measures.

Further north, Gettysburg and Antietam fared relatively well. At Gettysburg falling trees harmed two monuments, one marking the position of Law's Brigade on South Confederate Avenue and the other commemorating Battery E, 1st Pennsylvania Light Artillery. Other than the brief closing of several areas of the park for debris removal, however, Gettysburg was affected very little. Tree damage due to high winds also posed the key problem at Antietam, although the well-known witness sycamore at Burnside's Bridge emerged unharmed from the hurricane. Antietam apparently sustained more noteworthy damage two weeks prior to Isabel: a powerful thunderstorm knocked down about twenty trees in the national cemetery, several of which stood at the time of its dedication in 1876. Winds from the storm also tore a large branch from the Burnside's Bridge sycamore, which then fell

directly on the structure and did significant damage to one side.

Time for the 3rd Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award Has Arrived: Members of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee will begin accepting donations to the Ed Bearss Preservation Fund "account" at our February meeting. As instituted in 2002 by the Round Table executive committee, the Bearss Award honors our good friend and longtime battlefield tour leader by contributing \$1,000 in his name to the preservation project/organization that Ed himself regards as most deserving. The inaugural awardee was the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust and last year's was the Kernstown Battlefield Association; both organizations continue to be aggressive and effective promoters of preservation values under challenging circumstances. Ed will announce his choice during our 54th annual battlefield tour to the Atlanta area in May.

Winter Executive Committee Meeting

President Ted Birndorf has announced that the winter Executive Committee meeting will be held on **Saturday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m., at Marcello's, 645 West North Avenue.** Any member may attend, but only members of the Executive Committee may vote. **The Executive Committee is comprised of all current officers and committee chairs and all past presidents.**

Nominating Committee Meeting

Janet Linhart, chair of the Nominating Committee, has announced that this year's meeting will be held on **Saturday, March 13, at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of **Brooks Davis, One East Schiller, #6A.** **The Nominating Committee is comprised of all past Round Table presidents.** Committee members will be sent more specific details. For further information, contact **Janet Linhart (630-752-1330, janetlinhart@att.net).**

JANUARY MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On January 9, Arnold W. Schofield gave an informative and interesting presentation, entitled "Forgotten Warriors: American Indians in the Civil War as Allies and Adversaries," before 55 members and guests at the 627th regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table. Schofield, an expert on the Civil War in the West, is the senior research historian at Fort Scott national Historic Site in Kansas. His speech dealt with events involving Plains Indians during the Civil War era. Schofield also explained the significance of Fort Scott.

As a result of the 1832 Indian Removal Act, the five civilized tribes in the southeastern United States were relocated to the Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) by 1838. Due to the many deaths that resulted, this journey is known as the "Trail of Tears." All of these tribes—Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Cherokee, and Seminole—fought against each other. Colonel/General Stand Watie led one faction of Cherokees into the Confederate army. A political difference within the Plains Indian community revolved around the astonishing fact that many Indians owned black slaves. This fact coincided with the major question facing the United States in the 1850s: Is slavery going to be extended into the territories?

Schofield proclaimed, "The Civil War really began in 1855 in 'Bleeding Kansas' as a result of the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act." This legislation stated that the territories of Kansas and Nebraska could have self-determination over the issue of slavery. The idea was to allow democracy to work. Problems resulted when northern abolitionists and southern firebrands flooded eastern Kansas, causing violence and chaos. According to Schofield, the psychological terror was as bad as the actual death and destruction.

The principal reasons that Plains Indians became involved in the Civil War were European encroachment on Indian lands and the U.S. government's failure to abide by previous treaties with various Indian tribes. The

mission of the U.S. government during the Civil War was to keep trails and roads open. As the conflict proceeded, the number of Union soldiers proved successful in protecting mail routes and highways.

Before the Civil War, the U.S. army built a highway from Fort Snelling in St. Paul Minnesota, to Fort Smith in Arkansas. This road connected several forts, including Fort Scott, Kansas. The purposes of this roadway were to stop settlers from invading the Indian Territory and to keep Indians on a permanent frontier. Fort Scott, heavily defended, was never attacked during the Civil War. It served as a huge quartermaster area, as a foodstuff storage area.

Schofield asserted, "The number of Indians who fought for the Confederacy and those who fought for the Union were evenly divided. The U.S. government was fighting the Confederate soldiers and various Indian tribes in the West simultaneously. To complicate the situation, many tribes suffered from internecine and inter-tribal warfare within the American Civil War." The European concept of buying and selling land was alien to the culture of the Plains Indians. Rather, they had the concept of communal lands without individual ownership; each tribe felt compelled to guard their ancestral land.

The 1862 Sioux uprising in Minnesota was a famous incident in the Civil War. Many Indians, starving, were angry about broken treaties from the white society. The Indians attacked, killing many whites and spreading terror. Approximately 308 Sioux Indians were arrested for murder and rape. After U.S. president Abraham Lincoln reviewed the cases, 38 were tried and executed at the same time at Mankato, Minnesota—the largest execution in U.S. history.

Some statistics gave an indication of the suffering of Plains Indians. In the Indian Territory (Oklahoma), 3,530 Indians served the Union during the Civil War; 1,018 died from conflict or disease. In 1860, the census for

Cherokees indicated 21,000, but only 13,500 Cherokees were listed in 1867. The Indian Territory was a violent, desolate, destitute place to live. Many Indians starved.

Three Union regiments of Indian Home Guards existed in the Civil War. The largest contingent came from Kansas. About 3,000 Indians fought for Union forces. Creek, Osage, Delaware, Seminole, and Cherokee Indians were loyal Unionists. The Confederate forces included many Cherokee, Creek, and Chickasaw Indians.

Perhaps the most important Civil War battle involving Indians was the Battle of Pea Ridge (Elkhorn Tavern) in northwestern Arkansas on April 27, 1862. Union General Albert Pike commanded a battalion of the first Cherokee Rifles. The battle was noteworthy because it was a Union victory, with scalps of Confederate troops taken by Indians. Pike ordered that scalping was no longer tolerated. Schofield explained that the act of scalping was not limited to Indians; whites also engaged in scalping during the Civil War.

Among other actions was the Battle of Honey Springs in Oklahoma on June 13, 1863. Indians fought on both sides, with a Union victory. On July 29, 1864, an entire Cherokee village was destroyed by the Union-led forces of Colonel John Chivington at Sand Creek, Colorado. The Colorado militia not only massacred the Indians, but also destroyed everything associated with the Indian village.

Often U.S. soldiers adhered to the opinion of General Philip Sheridan—attack Indians in the winter when they were most vulnerable. After the Civil War, an entire new policy of extermination of buffalo herds led to forced removal of Plains Indians from tribal lands to reservations. Plains Indians had short-lived success at "Custer's Last Stand" in southeastern Montana on June 25, 1876. The U.S. army reacted with a swift, terrible revenge. By 1890, almost all Plains Indians had surrendered and were sent to remote reservations.

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas

- Alexander, Robert. *Five Forks: Waterloo of the Confederacy*. Michigan State U. Press. 2003. \$24.95.
- Ambrose, D. Leib. *From Shiloh to Savannah: The Seventh Illinois Infantry in the Civil War*. Northern Illinois U. Press. 2002. \$35.00.
- Andrew, Rod, Jr. *Long Gray Lines: The Southern Military Tradition, 1839-1915*. U. of N.Carolina Press. 2002. \$30.00.
- Arnold, James R. *Jeff Davis' Own: Cavalry, Comanches and the Battle for the Texas Frontier*. John Wiley & sons. 2000. \$30.00.
- Baumgartner, Richard A. *Buckeye Blood: Ohio at Gettysburg*. Blue Acorn Press. 2003. \$30.00.
- Beaudot, William A. K. *The 24th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War: The Biography of a Regiment*. Stackpole Books. 2003. \$32.95.
- Bonner, Robert E. *Colors and Blood-Flag Passions of the Confederate South*. Princeton U. Press. 2002. \$29.95.
- Bradford, James. *Atlas of American History*. Oxford U. Press. 2003. \$50.00.
- Bridges, Peter. *Pen of Fire: John Moncure Daniel*. Kent State U. Press. 2002. \$28.00.
- Brinsfield, John W.; William C. Davis; Benedict Maryniak; and James I. Robertson, Jr., eds. *Faith in the Fight: Civil War Chaplains*. Stackpole Books. 2003. \$29.95.
- Tucker, Philip T., ed. *Cubans in the Confederacy: Jose Augustin Quintero, Ambrosio Jose Gonzales, and Loreta Janeta Velazquez*. McFarland & Co. 2002. Pbk. \$39.95.
- Wakelyn, Jon L. *Confederates Against the Confederacy*. Praeger Publishers. 2002. \$64.95.
- Waugh, John C. *Surviving the Confederacy: Rebellion, Ruin, and Recovery – Roger and Sarah Pryor During the Civil War*. Harcourt. 2002. \$28.00.
- Wellman, Manley W. *Rebel Boast: First at Bethel, Last at Appomattox*. Elephant Books. 1998. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1956.

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710), or online at barnesandnoble.com or amazon.com.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, a collection of essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago.

The annual **George L. Painter Lincoln Lectures** will be held on Thursday, February 12 at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site Visitor Center in Springfield, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This year's lectures feature **Michael L. Carlebach**, professor of art history at the University of Miami, and **Vibert White**, director of the public history program at the University of Central Florida. Admission is free. For information, contact **Tim Townsend** at 217-492-4241 or via email at tim_townsend@nps.gov.

The annual **Abraham Lincoln Symposium** will take place on Thursday, February 12, in the Hall of Representatives at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, Illinois. The theme this year is "Abraham Lincoln and the Party System." Speakers are **Mark E. Neely, Jr.** (this Round Table's 1989 Nevins-Freeman honoree), **Michael Holt**, and **Mark Voss-Hubbard**. Comments will be made by **Graham Peck**. The Symposium begins at 1:30 p.m. and is open to the public, free of charge. **Martin Marty**, of the University of Chicago, will be the speaker at the **annual banquet of the Abraham Lincoln Association**, held the evening of February 12 in the ballroom of the Springfield Renaissance hotel. The cost of the banquet is \$50 per person. For information and to make reservations, contact **Cathy LeConte** at Illinois National Bank in Springfield (217-747-5502).

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by late Round Table founding member **Ralph G. Newman**. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum rise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the last highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds go to benefit battlefield preservation.



Bulletin Board

FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, *unless otherwise indicated*.

February 11: Lawrence Lee Hewitt, "The Confederacy's Best Chance for Victory: Robert E. Lee and the Battle of Annihilation" (*Please note that this is the second Wednesday of February.*)

March 12: Thomas F. Schwartz, "Crazy Folks ... Why must I take my chances? -Abraham Lincoln and Death Threats"

April 16: (third Friday) James Ogden, topic to be announced.

April 29-May 2: Annual Spring Battlefield Tour, Atlanta Campaign

May 14: Bruce Tap, "Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War"

June 11: To be announced

NEW MEMBERS

John Barranco, 4109 Rutgers Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062, 847-272-4118

David Kibitlewski and Kathryn O'Connell, 116 Glenwood Drive, Round Lake Beach, IL 60073-2624, 847-740-5680

David P. Nordin, 33 West Delaware Place, #23H, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-951-9446

Charles J. Renner, 10981 Ewing Avenue, Chicago, IL 60617, 773-731-6234

George K. Zak, Willowbrook, IL

Former President **Brooks Davis** spoke about the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) at a meeting of the S.A.R. (Sons of the American Revolution) on January 15 at the Union League Club.

IN REMEMBRANCE

We are sad to report the deaths of two friends of the Round Table:

Longtime member **G. Paul Doucette** died on January 12 after a lengthy illness.

Rich Sokup, a board member of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, who portrayed Senator Douglas at events throughout the country, died following complications from surgery on January 15.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of these two good men.

54th Annual Battlefield Tour - Atlanta
April 29 - May 2, 2004

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's 53rd Annual Battlefield Tour will once again see the "Yankees" marching through Georgia. Once again our tour will be lead by Ed Bearss assisted by Jim Ogden. While you may 'make Georgia howl' this time it will not be because of looting, pillaging, or destruction (except possibly in food or alcohol consumption!) We will see Atlanta from the unique perspective of those who followed the campaign route the first time. We will follow the roads and battles of one Union Army - the three Corps of Gen. George Thomas' *Army of the Cumberland* (Howard's 4th, Palmer's 14th, and Hooker's 20th).

We will begin as Thomas did in May 1864 at Ringgold, GA at the Old Stone Church. On the 1st day there will be stops at Tunnel Hill, Dug Gap, Snake Creek Gap, the Resaca, and Cassville battlefields. We will conclude by following the scenic back roads of Thomas' advance through Kingston, Euharlee, and Stilesboro Academy. The 2nd day will begin with the ill-fated attacks at New Hope Church, and Pickett's Mill (the 'best preserved Civil War battlefield in the country'), and then move to Big Shanty, Pine Mountain, and Kolb's Farm. (Did you know that it was Thomas' artillery that sent the good Gen. Leonidas Polk to his eternal reward?)

The final days will see us atop Kennesaw Mountain, walking the ill-fated charge of five brigades at the 'Dead Angle' of Cheatham's Hill, then driving southward through Smyrna, Vining, and visiting several historic 'shoupades' at the Chattahoochee River. We will walk the ground where Joe Johnston planned to trap Thomas at Peachtree Creek, visit and dine at the famous Atlanta Cyclorama, and conclude both the battle and our tour at the historic and poignant Oakland Cemetery in Atlanta.

For more specific itinerary, reading list, and updates, please visit our website at www.cwrt.org.

Please return the form below with your payment.

Registration must be received by February 1, 2004. Half payment will hold registration, payment in full is due by April 1, 2004. Reservations on this trip are strictly limited to 100 persons. Preference will be given to members of the Chicago CWRT and those who are fully paid.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Plan to share a room? Yes No Roommate's name: _____ I need a roommate
 I would like The CWRT to try to match me with a roommate, understanding that The CWRT has no responsibility for ensuring the suitability of matches.

Please indicate preference, we will try to accommodate: Non-smoking Smoking Doesn't Matter

NOTE: Send this registration form, with your check payable to *The Civil War Round Table ("The CWRT")*, to *Pepper Zenger, Tour Registrar, 4332 W. 109th Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453*

See Other Side of Form for More Tour Information

Cost of the Tour...

\$ 510.00 per person double occupancy

\$ 690.00 per person single occupancy

Tour costs include: accommodations at the Marriott Inn, Marietta, GA., Wednesday evening April 28 through Sunday morning May 2; coach service for all tour activities; lunches and dinners; refreshments on the buses; tour guides; admission fees; tour kits; group service gratuities; and evening programs. *Breakfasts and Wednesday dinner are not included.* Sunday morning brunch is included. A cash bar will be available during the evening Command Posts.

Non-Members; \$ 75 per person additional for non-members of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago, or save money and join now, go to www.cwrt.org and print out the on-line membership form, you can submit your membership application along with your payment for the tour. This will also help you ensure your place on the tour if all who want to participate cannot be accommodated.

Roommates: Please indicate the name of the person with whom you wish to share a room, or if you would like help in finding a roommate, please check 'Need a Roommate'. While every effort will be made to assist participants in finding roommates, if cancellation or inability to find a suitable roommate occurs, participant will be charged the single room rate.

Shuttle Service: A & M Limo Service offers shuttles from Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport to the Marriott Northwest Inn, Marietta GA. One way shuttle service is \$20.00 or you can save money by making a round trip reservation in advance - calling and giving your credit card number and time of arrival. This reduces the price to \$30.00. If you do not register in advance the price will be \$37.50 for a round trip ride. The number to call for advance reservations or when you get to the airport is 1-770-955-4565.

Cancellation Policy: We understand that life changes, and we are pleased to assist you in dealing with unforeseen occurrences. After April 1 there will be a \$10 charge for cancellations. After April 25 the cancellation fee is \$50 per person.

Bus Boarding Policy: Boarding and seating on specific busses will be accommodated on a first-come, day-to-day basis. Once seated for the day on a specific bus and seat, please do not change seats for the remainder of the day to assure a viable head-count after each stop. For each subsequent day, the choice of bus and seat will continue on a first-come basis.

Physical Limitations: Please make sure that you are physically able to meet the challenges of the stops and activities in which you choose to participate. The Civil War Round Table of Chicago is not responsible for illnesses or injuries that may occur.

Unforeseen Circumstances: Should unforeseen circumstances occur, The Civil War Round Table reserves the right to cancel this tour. We do not anticipate this happening, but should it occur, The CWRT liability is limited to refund of full registration fee.

The Tour hotel is: *Marriott Inn Northwest*
200 Interstate Parkway
Atlanta, GA 30339
Phone: 770-952-7900
Fax: 770-952-1468