

**630th REGULAR
MEETING**

JAMES OGDEN ON
“...INFLECTING ALL THE DAMAGE YOU CAN...”
SHERMAN TARGETS THE WAR RESOURCES”

Friday, April 16, 2004

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

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

Entrée: Chicken Venetian or Catch of the Day

PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2004**
by calling Carole LeClaire 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.

(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.)

PARKING: 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.

JAMES OGDEN

On

**“...Inflicting All The Damage You Can ...’
Sherman Targets The War Resources”**

By Barbara Hughett

Ulysses S. Grant issued the following directive to William T. Sherman regarding the conduct of the war in 1864: “You I propose to move against Johnston’s Army, to break it up and to get into the interior of the enemy’s country as far as you can, inflicting all the damage you can against their War resources.” Sherman’s efforts to accomplish the first part of that charge and the fact that he accomplished much of the second, if not the first, is widely related in the story of the unfolding of the Atlanta Campaign. Less recognized is what those “War resources” were.

James Ogden will address The Round Table on April 16; his topic will be “...Inflicting All The Damage You Can...’ Sherman Targets The War Resources.” In his talk, Ogden will discuss the military-industrial complex the Confederate government was increasingly building in Central Georgia and Central Alabama to support its bid for independence. He will talk about the complex-a series of manufacturing, processing, and distribution centers-that was keeping Southern armies in the field in 1863 and 1864.

It was this widespread complex that, with many successes and frequent failings, was keeping arms and ammunition in the hands of its nation’s men, uniforms on its soldiers’ backs, and food in the troops’ haversacks. The industrial complex that Union soldiers encountered as they fought their way through the South was a remarkable accomplishment for an upstart nation with an agriculture-based economy that was seeking independence. Understanding more about this military-industrial capacity of the South can increase the appreciation for what the men of Sherman’s armies accomplished in 1864.

James Ogden, III, is a native of St. Mary’s County, Maryland, and graduated with a degree in American History from Frostburg State College in Frostburg, Maryland. His interest in the Civil War dates back to his years in elementary school. Beginning work with the National Park Service in 1982, he has been stationed at Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park, Georgia and Tennessee; Russell Cave National Monument, Alabama; and Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Virginia. In November 1988, he returned to Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park as the site’s Historian--a position he presently holds.

Jim has spoken to numerous Civil War Round Tables around the country, as well as to other historical associations. He has taught a number of Civil War history courses for the Continuing Education Department of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and has written articles for local publications. He has appeared in episodes of the A&E television network series, “Civil War Journal and in the History Channel’s “Civil War Combat” program on Chickamauga.

For over 15 years, he has instructed over four hundred groups of officers of the U.S. Army, conducting Staff Rides at Chickamauga and Chattanooga. Jim will be one of the guides on our upcoming battlefield tour of the Atlanta Campaign.

Battlefield Preservation Update by Mary Munsell Abroe

Administration Budgets \$5 Million in Matching Grants for Preservation: A Civil War Preservation Trust news release dated February 2 indicated promising news for battlefield preservation: “In his Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 budget request to Congress, President George W. Bush today included \$5 million in federal matching grants for Civil War battlefield preservation. The \$5 million provision is more than double the White House’s previous request of \$2 million in FY 2004.

‘We are extremely pleased with the President’s decision to increase funding for battlefield preservation during a tight fiscal year,’ remarked Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) President James Lighthizer. ‘Today’s announcement further underscores the Administration’s commitment to protecting our nation’s endangered Civil War battlegrounds.’

The President’s budget request sets aside \$5 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program. If agreed to by Congress, this would represent the most money ever available in a single year for the program. Congress has previously appropriated a total of \$21 million for the program during the past six years.

The Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program was first established by Congress in 1998 and was formally authorized as part of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Act of 2002. It provides federal grant money for Civil War battlefield land outside National Park Service (NPS) boundaries. Nearly 11,000 acres of high-priority battlefield land in 15 states has been saved as a result of the program.

The success of the Civil War Battlefield Preservation Program is primarily due to its non-federal match requirement, which encourages state and private investment in Civil War battlefields. The grants are competitively awarded by the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), an arm of the NPS. Acquisition is from willing sellers only. Among battlefield sites that have benefited from the program are Antietam, Maryland; Bentonville, North Carolina; Chancellorsville, Virginia; Fort Donelson, Tennessee; and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.”

CWPT Announces Ten Most Endangered Battlefields: During a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., the Civil War Preservation Trust in late February announced its annual listing of the nation’s ten most endangered battlefields. Selection criteria were geographic location, military importance, and urgency of present problems; sites were suggested for inclusion on the list through nomination by interested parties in a process that took place last fall. The ten sites are as follows: 1.) Chancellorsville, Virginia; 2.) Franklin, Tennessee; 3.) Fort Donelson, Tennessee; 4.) Glendale/Frayser’s Farm, Virginia; 5.) “The Hell Hole,” Georgia; 6.) Mansfield, Louisiana; 7.) Morris Island, South Carolina; 8.) New Bern, North Carolina; 9.) South Mountain, Maryland; and 10.) Wilson’s Creek, Missouri.

Because the Round Table battlefield tour this year heads to the Atlanta area, the plight of the “Hell Hole” battlefields are of special interest to us. The spring issue of *Hallowed Ground*, a publication of the CWPT, has the following to say about those sites: “Today, the Hell Hole battlefields are located in one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. The resulting sprawl has not only obliterated trenches near Pickett’s Mill, but is also generating commercial development at New Hope Church and residential development near Dallas. Major road construction is further aggravating the situation. Although a substantial portion of the Pickett’s Mill Battlefield is preserved as a state historic site, only small portions of New Hope Church and Dallas are protected from development.” For additional information on these imperiled battlefields, as well as fifteen more “at risk” sites, see the CWPT Web site at www.civilwar.org.

MARCH MEETING
By ROGER E. BOHN

On Friday, March 12, members and guests heard **Thomas F. Schwartz** present “Crazy Folks...Why I Must Only Take My Chances: Abraham Lincoln and Death Threats.” Tom is a native of Downers Grove and received his Ph.D. in history at the University of Illinois. In 1985, he became curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library, and in 1993, he was named State Historian. In 1999, he showed some of our members through a truly magnificent collection when Brooks Davis led us to Springfield. Tom is also the chief historian for exhibits and content in the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, which is currently scheduled to open in 2005.

Historians have long been well set on Lincoln’s attitude toward death, and there are upwards of 10,000 titles that have been published on the topic of Lincoln. We are all familiar with the portents of his death and his assassination. Individuals reported threats upon Lincoln as he was to travel through Baltimore on the way to his inauguration, and Lincoln drew criticism as a coward for “sneaking” into Washington, DC. We all “know” that Lincoln’s fatalism and indifference to warnings, threats and the possibility of assassination ultimately culminated in his death. There is almost an assumption that if he had been more careful, he would have avoided that unfortunate end.

Schwartz used a quote from Secretary of State Seward: “*Assassination is not an American practice or habit, and one so minded cannot be engrafted into our system. The President goes to and from the Soldiers’ Home on horseback, alone and unguarded. I, also, go there unguarded at all hours of the day and night.*” The conclusion was that Lincoln was “easy to kill,” and yet-in 1862-it had not happened.

Few threatening letters have been found in the Lincoln papers in the Library of Congress, and the conclusion is that the letters were considered not potentially dangerous and were destroyed. Some even went so far as to say that Lincoln refused to even read any letters suggesting violence; and that eventually, Lincoln and his staff grew indifferent to the threats. Was Lincoln so afraid of the label of “coward” that he took unnecessary risks to avoid it?

The earliest threats on Lincoln’s life came in the form of gifts-preserved fruit and other such “stuff” were daily received from the south as presents-and many were tested and found to be poisoned. Most of the letters, however, were judged to be “angry words” which would seldom lead to actual violence. In fact, Lincoln responded to the young girl who suggested that he grow a beard, because it was one of the few letters that he received that was *not* threatening or begging for something.

Alan Pinkerton, Winfield Scott, and many others urged Lincoln to take the evasive actions that he took on the way through Baltimore to his inauguration. Lincoln could not have ignored the sound judgment of so many esteemed advisors, and he made it safely into Washington. Later, the newspapers gave their own spin to the affair, and Lincoln did, indeed, appear the coward. Lincoln was embarrassed, but felt he “should not run the risk when no risk was necessary.” Lincoln’s playing it safe in Baltimore allowed him to concentrate on the more important issues, such as the situation developing at Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C. and the question of the secession of southern states. The inauguration itself went without a problem, in spite of the many risks and threats.

An unexpected accident caused injury to Mary Lincoln, when someone tampered with the carriage that the Lincolns used going to and from the Soldiers’ Home. Mrs. Lincoln was thrown to the ground and hit her head on a rock, and was seriously injured. Lincoln felt that she almost died because of her close proximity to him, and subsequent measures kept Mary and the boys traveling further from the usual visits to the Soldiers’ Home.

In August 1864, another incident occurred near the Soldiers’ Home, the Lincoln’s “Summer White House,” a few miles away. Lincoln was riding alone at night, when a rifle shot pierced the crown of his tall hat. Lincoln declared it to be a shot fired by a foolish hunter, not an assassination attempt-all evidence to the contrary-but he never again traveled alone to the Home.

John Nicolay, Lincoln's private secretary, indicated that *all* the threatening letters of any kind were given to Lincoln, per his instructions and contrary to the report that all such letters were destroyed without being shown to the President. Indeed, some letters prompted an investigation by appropriate parties with the results being reported to the President. These were usually found to be groundless, but a file was kept on the credible ones, and the file contained *eighty* letters.

Ultimately, Lincoln's approach to the threats was one of fatalism and practicality. Since both friends and enemies must have contact with him daily, any man who wished to commit murder could do so. It was impossible to protect himself against all danger, unless he shut himself into an iron box--and then it would be impossible to perform the duties of the President of the United States. Indeed, all the threats and attempts on Lincoln's life failed--until the fateful night of April 14, 1865. Tom Schwartz feels that Lincoln did not carelessly cause his own demise, and to think that way is only thinking backwards from his death. Lincoln did not want people to think that he lived every day in fear for his life and that putting guards around himself would only give others that idea...which might well lead someone to the idea to do so in fact. "For these crazy folks, I must only take my chances." For Lincoln, possible martyrdom would be preferable to being paralyzed by fear.

Lincoln Prize Honors
Richard J. Carwardine and John Y. Simon

The prestigious Lincoln Prize, at Gettysburg College, this year is honoring British historian **Richard J. Carwardine** with its highest (\$30,000) prize and our own **John Y. Simon** with a special prize of \$20,000 for his extraordinary achievement in editing 26 volumes--to date--of *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant*. Carwardine, Rhodes Professor of American History at Oxford University, won for his analytical biography, *Lincoln*. Simon, long a friend of this Round Table and our 1985 Nevins-Freeman honoree, is a professor of history at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, as well as serving as the chairman of the Ulysses S. Grant Association. The awards will be presented on April 14 at a dinner at the Union League Club of New York. The Lincoln Prize was founded and is endowed by philanthropists Richard Gilder and Lewis Lehrman.

The stage production of Michael Schaara's *The Killer Angels*, reported in last month's issue of this newsletter, has--due to popular demand--extended its run through May 23. The play can be seen on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evenings at the **Lifeline Theatre, 6912 North Glenwood, Chicago**. For exact times and to reserve tickets, call **773-761-4477** or visit **lifeline theatre.com** or **ticketweb.com**.

Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park in Nicholasville, Kentucky, will open its new 6,800-square-foot interpretive center will open later this year. The annual Camp Nelson Civil War Days, on September 11 and 12, will celebrate the 140th anniversary of the recruiting of black soldiers. The camp was one of the country's largest training centers for U.S. Colored Troops and a self-sufficient refugee camp serving up to 3,000 people.

The 100th anniversary of Confederate General James Longstreet's death will be marked with a recreation of the original funeral, processional and graveside services on May 2 in Gainesville, Georgia. Sons of Confederate Veterans Blue Ridge Rifles Camp 1860 will host the centennial of Longstreet's death in Gainesville on January 2, 1904. Additional information is posted at the website, **LongstreetFuneral.org**.

Actor Sam Waterston, who portrayed Abraham Lincoln on television and the Broadway stage and best-known now for his starring role in television's *Law and Order* series, will reenact Lincoln's groundbreaking Cooper Union Address (delivered on February 27, 1860) on the actual site of the address, The Great Hall at Cooper Union, New York City, on Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. **Harold Holzer** (this Round Table's 2002 Nevins-Freeman honoree), author of the new book, *Lincoln At Cooper Union: The Speech That Made Abraham Lincoln President*, will introduce the performance with comments on the Cooper-Union address.

Senior Vice President Jerome Kowalski will be giving the Invocation and Benediction at the Lincoln Death Day Ceremonies in Springfield on Thursday, April 15, and at the gravesite of GAR founder Stevenson at Petersburg, Illinois. He serves as the chaplain for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the Department of Illinois.

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.

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.

The New Books

Daughtry, Mary. *Gray Cavalier: The Life and Wars of General William H. F. "Rooney" Lee*. Da Kapo Press. 2002. \$27.50.

DeBlack, Thomas A. *With Fire and Sword: Arkansas, 1861-1874*. U. of Arkansas Press. 2003. \$34.95; pbk. \$18.95.

Delfino, Susanna and Michele Gillespie, eds. *Neither Lady Nor Slave: Working Women in the Old South*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 2002. Pbk. \$19.95.

Discorfano, Ken. *They Saved the Union at Little Round Top: Gettysburg, July 2, 1863*. Thomas Publications. 2002. Pbk. \$11.95.

Dreese, Michael A. *Never Desert the Old Flag! 50 Stories of Union Battle Flags and Color Bearers at Gettysburg*. Thomas Publications. 2002. Pbk. \$12.95.

Evans, Robert G., ed. *The Sixteenth Mississippi Infantry: Civil War Letters and Reminiscences*. U. Press of Mississippi. 2002. \$40.00.

Farber, Daniel. *Lincoln's Constitution*. U. of Chicago Press. 2003. \$27.50.

Felton, Silas, compiler. *Dornbusch Bibliography of the Civil War, Volume IV (Revised and Updated)*. Morningside Bookshop. 2003. \$75.00.

Fornieri, Joseph R. *Abraham Lincoln's Political Faith*. Northern Illinois U. Press. 2003. \$38.00.

Fox, Arthur B. *Pittsburgh During the American Civil War*. Meching Bookbindery. 2002. \$39.95.

Franklin, John Hope, ed. *The diary of James T. Ayers, Civil War Recruiter*. LSU Press. 1999. Pbk. \$12.95. Original of 1947.

Gottfried, Bradley M. *Brigades at Gettysburg: Lee's Invasion of the North, 1863*. White Mane Press. 2001. \$29.95.

Hatch, Thom. *The Blue, The Gray, and The Red: Indiana Campaigns of the Civil War*. Stackpole Books. 2003. \$29.95.

Hinds, John W. *The Hunt for the Albermarle: Anatomy of a Gunboat War*. White Mane Press. 2001. \$29.95.

Hinds, Blaikie. *Civil War Volunteer Sons of Connecticut*. American Patriot Press. 2002. Pbk. \$34.95.

Hubbard, Charles M., ed. *Lincoln Reshapes the Presidency*. Mercer U. Press. 2003. \$29.95.

Huddleston, John. *Killing Ground: Photographs of the Civil War and the Changing American Landscape*. John Hopkins U. Press. 2003. \$35.00.

Hughes, Mark. *Confederate Cemeteries: Volume I*. Heritage Books. 2002. \$33.50.

Hunt, Roger. *Colonels in Blue - Union Army Colonels of the Civil War: New York*. Schieffer Publ. 2003. \$59.95.

Jenkins, Wilbert L. *Climbing Up To Glory: A Short History of African Americans During the Civil War and Reconstruction*. S.R. Books. 2002. Pbk. \$21.95

Joiner, Gary D. *One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End: The Red River Campaign of 1864*. S.R. Books. 2003. \$65.00; pbk. \$17.95.

Jones, Howard. *Abraham Lincoln and a New Birth of Freedom: The Union and Slavery in the Diplomacy of the Civil War*. U. of Nebraska Press. 2002. Pbk. \$16.95.

Keneally, Thomas. *Abraham Lincoln*. Viking Penguin, 2003. \$19.95.

Lande, R. Gregory. *Madness, Malingering and Malfeasance: The Transformation of Psychiatry and the Law in the Civil War*. Brassey's. 2003. \$27.95.

Leehan, Brian. *Pale Horse at Plum Run: The First Minnesota at Gettysburg*. Minnesota Historical Society. 2002. \$29.95.

Linedecker, Clifford, ed. *Civil War A to Z: The Complete Handbook of America's Bloodiest Conflict*. Ballentine Books. 2002. Pbk. \$14.95.

Longacre, Edward G. *A Regiment of Slaves: The 4th United States Colored Infantry, 1863-1866*. Stackpole Books. 2003. \$27.95.

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*.

*April 16: (**third Friday**)* James Ogden, "Inflicting All the Damage You Can...! Sherman Targets the War Resources"

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.

Chicago Civil War Round Table Trip
April-May 2004

*“The Army of the Cumberland’s
Campaign for Atlanta*

Thursday April 29th, 2004

8:00-9:15am = Travel to Ringgold from Marietta GA
9:15-9:45 = Rest-stop near Ringgold then travel
9:45-10:30 = Old Stone Church (Ringgold)
10:45-11:45 = Tunnel Hill
12:00-1:15 = Lunch - NW GA Convention Center
1:30-2:15 = Dug Gap
2:50-3:20 = Snake Creek Gap (Sugar Valley Baptist Church/Cemetery)

3:50-5:00 = Resaca
5:00-6:00 = Following Thomas’ advance: Cassville, Kingston, Euharlee [*brief
pull-over here*], Stilesboro, New Hope, Pickett’s Mill
6:00-7:30 = Dinner at Pickett’s Mill Presentations after dinner by Gen. Thomas
and others
7:30-8:00 = Travel back to hotel

Friday April 30, 2004

8:00-8:30am = Drive to New Hope Church
8:30-9:10 = New Hope Church
9:25-11:40 = Visitor’s Center (Pickett’s Mill)
11:40-12:30 = Lunch (boxed lunch at site)
12:30-1:00 = Travel (will drive by Gilgal Church)
1:00-2:00 = Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History (home of the
“General”)
2:20-3:00 = Pine Mountain
3:30-4:15 = Kolb’s Farm
4:45-6:00 = Visitor’s Center (at Kennesaw Mt. NBP)
7:00 = Dinner at hotel in Marietta GA - Ed Bearss speaks

Saturday May 1st, 2004

8:00-8:30am = Drive
8:30-10:20 = At top of Kennesaw Mt.
10:20-11:00 = Restroom stop (at Visitor’s Center)
11:00-12:40 = Cheatham’s Hill (the “Dead Angle”)
1:00-2:00 = Lunch in Kennesaw, GA (Golden Corral)
2:30-3:30 = Chattahoochee River line (Confederate “shoupades”)
4:00-5:15 = Tanyard Park (Peachtree Creek battle site)
5:45 = Cyclorama (tour the exhibits on own; cocktails available)
6:45 = Dinner at Cyclorama - followed by viewing of Cyclorama, CWRT program

Sunday May 2, 2004

8:00-8:30am = Drive to Roswell
8:30-10:00 = Roswell
10:30-12:00 = Oakland Cemetery
12:00-1:00 = Travel back to hotel
1:00 = Brunch back at Marriott

1 For a brief description of each battle, maps and the action that took place, please consult the brochure in your Tour Kit

entitled: *“The Civil War - A Guide to the Atlanta Campaign, May - September, 1864”*

NOTE : THE ONLY NIGHT WE WILL BE BACK AT THE INN FOR DINNER IS **FRIDAY NIGHT**.