

Volume LIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

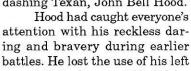
September 1992

# Wiley Sword on "Who Speaks for the Dead? A Perspective on Franklin and Nashville"

by Barbara Hughett

Some of the bloodiest fighting of the Civil War took place in Tennessee, during the battles at Franklin (November 30, 1864) and Nashville (December 15-16, 1864). At Franklin, five Confederate generals were killed, six wounded (one mortally), and one captured. And thousands of ordinary

soldiers on both sides were killed and wounded during both these conflicts in the last few months of the war. The previous summer, in a desperate attempt to change the rapidly ebbing fortunes of the Confederacy, President Jefferson Davis had replaced General Joseph E. Johnston as commander of the Western armies with the dashing Texan, John Bell Hood.





Wiley Sword

arm at Gettysburg and his left leg at Chickamauga, but this did not dampen his ardor for combat. Strapped to his saddle, Hood led the Army of Tennessee in a series of disastrous but gallant offensives. He believed in frontal assaults, in the credo of attack and overwhelm, and he confronted Sherman's forces aggressively, suffering heavy losses without positive results. Instead of pursuing and harassing Sherman after the fall of Atlanta, Hood-with Richmond's approvallaunched an invasion of Tennessee, hoping to draw Sherman back to protect Nashville and the Union heartland.

Hood's defeat at Nashville proved to be the worst suffered by any army during the entire war. Southern valor could not offset the overwhelming numerical advantage of the Northern forces, their greater resources, or badlyflawed Southern leadership. The virtual destruction of Hood's army proved to be the death knell of the Confed-

"Who Speaks for the Dead? A Perspective on Franklin and Nashville" will be the topic of Wiley Sword when he addresses The Round Table on September 11. He will tell the story of Franklin and Nashville from the perspective of the individual soldiers who fought in those battles. He will talk in detail about these men, their personal lives, their attitudes, and the commitments they made.

Wiley Sword is a businessman, historian, author, and authority on antique weapons. A graduate of the University



513th Regular Meeting

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Wiley Sword on "Who Speaks for the Dead? A Perspective on Franklin and Nashville"

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Friday, September 11

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza 350 North Orleans Street Buttons-15th floor

Dinner at 6:30 p.m Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. \$20.00 per person

Menu: Boneless Chicken Breast with Porcini Mushroom Sauce, Orange Roughy, or Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, September 9. Mail the enclosed postcard or call the book shop at (312)

If you are driving and coming from the south, turn left into the Mart Plaza lot just after crossing the river on Orleans. From the north, turn right from Orleans on Hubbard, left on Kingsbury, right on Kinzie, and left into the Mart Plaza lot. Parking is free.

of Michigan, he has successfully operated a manufacturer's representative agency of automotive lines for the past thirty years. He has resided in the suburban Detroit area for most of his life.

Sword's interest in the Civil War began with the stories he heard as a child about his great-grandfathers' experiences in the Civil war-one was a Confederate captain, the other a Union soldier. He is the author of five books and numerous scholarly articles. His books include Shiloh: Bloody April (1974) and Embrace an Angry Wind: The Confederacy's Last Hurrah (1992). Wiley last addressed The Round Table during the 1991 battlefield tour to Shiloh.

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



#### Founded December 3, 1940

357 West Chicago Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60610 Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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 Dan Weinberg, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.

The Eighteenth Annual National Congress of Civil War Round Tables will be held in Lexington, Kentucky, on October 1-4. The principal speaker will be Edwin C. Bearss. A conference on "The Civil War in the Indiana Territory" is scheduled for October 24-25 in Fort Smith Arkansas. Speakers will include Leroy Fischer and James Caster. For information on both events, call Jerry Russell at (501) 225-3996.

# BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION ☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The state of Kentucky has awarded \$2.5 million in federal highway money to fund preservation projects at Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site in Perryville, Kentucky. The money represents 80 percent of a package created in a partnership using government funding and money raised privately. It will come through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet after another \$625,000 in matching money is raised, making a total of \$3.125 million available for preservation projects.

According to Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Secretary Don Kelly, the money comes from a federal transportation enhancement program "included in the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, which officially recognizes that highways and transit facilities should blend with and enhance natural, social, and cultural environments."

Kentucky Governor Brereton Jones, in announcing the award in June, said the money is part of about \$10 million in enhancement funds designated for Kentucky. He added that this is the first time funds from the enhancement program have been committed for use with a historic preservation project.

David Morgan, the state's historic preservation officer and the executive director of the Kentucky Heritage Council, said that organization will work in cooperation with several other groups to raise the remaining \$625,000. Among those groups are the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, chaired by Kent Masterson Brown.

According to Brown, the money might be used for such things as adding to the 99-acre park and buying easements that would prevent landowners from developing parts of the 3500-acre battlefield that surrounds the park. Some of the money could be used for additional markers, fencing, and artillery pieces as well as for reconstruction of the Russell House, which stood during the battle.

Perryville was one of two Kentucky battlefields named by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan Jr. as among the top twenty-five most significant and endangered battlefields in the nation.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites recently purchased the Rich Mountain Battlefield, one of West Virginia's most important Civil War sites. The APCWS paid \$26,000 for the forty-acre parcel, which represents virtually the entire combat area of the battlefield. The site includes the original Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike through Buckhannon Pass, the remnants of the Hart House and its outbuildings, and a modern battlefield monument and historical marker. The site's most interesting features are rock outcroppings in which soldiers' names are etched and are still plainly legible.

The fighting at Rich Mountain resulted from Union efforts in 1861 to secure western Virginia and to protect the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. As a result of the battle, Unionists gained control of northwestern Virginia and George B. McClellan was launched into the national limelight. The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation brought the opportunity to save the battlefield to the attention of the APCWS. The Foundation will manage the site and erect interpretive signs and publish a brochure for visitors.

### JUNE MEETING &

# by Barbara Hughett

"A battle of strange errors"—this was Douglas Southall Freeman's terminology in describing the Battle of Seven Pines (May 31-June 1, 1862). As an artillery shell struck Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston in the chest and he was carried off the Seven Pines battlefield, there was gathered in the immediate area an impressive array of notables from Richmond. Those in attendance included Confederate President Jefferson Davis, General Robert E. Lee, Texas Senator Louis T. Wigfall, and John Daniel, editor of the Richmond Examiner.

It was to Wigfall's home that Johnston was taken to convalesce. During his recuperation there, two things began to be born: one—a Confederate opposition party would be stillborn; the second—that "strange, dark thing that happened in the mind of Joseph E. Johnston—would last much longer and have a profound effect on the military fate of the Confederacy." "Joseph E. Johnston: Politics, Ego, and Rationalization after the Battle of Seven Pines" was the topic of historian Steven H. Newton on June 12, when he spoke before 109 members and guests at the 512th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table.

Early in the battle, Johnston—a man of great ego and pride—had been unable to impress his will upon General James Longstreet, who careened down the Williamsburg Road in total contravention of Johnston's orders. When the attack did not go as planned, Johnston vacillated, at one point saying, "I wish all the troops were back in their camps. I should call the whole thing off." However, when Davis, Lee, and other eminent leaders showed up, he couldn't very well "call the whole thing off." While frantically dashing about the field, he was seriously wounded. Command of the army, was given to Lee.

"He awakens the next day," Newton said, "to discover that he is a hero. Joseph E. Johnston discovers that he has somehow fought the battle that saved Richmond, that he has struck a mighty blow and staggered the Union Army in their tracks, and that he has been lionized ... he almost annihilated the Federal corps—and would have, had he not been shot ... he is compared to Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh ..." and to Napoleon by the *Richmond Examiner*. General Benjamin Huger is made the scapegoat for any failings in the battle.

While recovering from his wounds, Johnston was courted by opponents of Jefferson Davis and encouraged to become the figurehead for a true opposition political party in the Confederacy. Those who were promoting this cause included Wigfall, Daniel of the *Examiner*, former Virginia Governor John Floyd, Tennessee Congressman Henry S. Foote, and Alabama fire-eater William L. Yancey. By late August, the Examiner was running editorials critical of Lee and laudatory of Johnston. However, the only thing Johnston really wanted was to be returned to the head of the Army of Northern Virginia. And this was something his friends could not deliver; a general who was being as successful as Lee was at this point in time was in no danger of being supplanted.

Though Davis was aware of these manueverings against him, he believed he needed Johnston in the war. The president realized "that if Joseph E. Johnston was not in Virginia, near the center of Confederate power, this whole mixture of strange collaborators would fade away

into their own separate directions."

In November 1862, Davis offered Johnston command of the "superdepartment" in the Ohio Valley, which controlled all Confederate troops between the Mississippi River and the Appalachian Mountains. Johnston reluctantly accepted and was "banished to the West." While this was the largest command offered to any Confederate general during the course of the war, it placed Johnston far away from the base of political power. Davis, of course, realized that Johnston's acceptance of this command would most certainly end the formation of the political party that had been about to be born.

Newton called Joseph E. Johnston's military career, pre- and post-Seven Pines, "a story of missed opportunities, of battles not fought, and postions almost held." In closing, he observed that: "Johnston had a fear not of death, not of wounding, but a fear of not knowing how to control the uncontrollable. He never learned because he never got to get back on that horse and ride again until he had all the inner demons against him.

"Lee never controlled it; Grant never controlled it; Sherman never controlled it; Jackson never controlled it. They swam with it; they rode with it; they tried to survive it. Johnston never understood that the only mistake was not going back to make more mistakes. And so he pursued his 'perfect record.' He never caught on."

# Battlefield Tour Date Change

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the dates for the 1993 battlefield tour to Vicksburg have been moved forward one week. The new dates are May 6-9. A pre-tour to Port Hudson, Louisiana, is being planned by Marv Sanderman, for May 4-5. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

# Stephen B. Oates to Receive 1993 Nevins-Freeman Award

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The Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table, at its July 18 meeting, voted to bestow its 1993 Nevins-Freeman Award on scholar and author Stephen B. Oates. Paul Murray Kendall Professor of Biography at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Oates has written several highly-acclaimed books on topics relating to the Civil War era. Included among his published works are Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln (1977) and To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown (1970). He will deliver his acceptance address at the October 8, 1993, meeting.

The Seventh Annual Lincoln Colloquium, of which the Lincoln Home National Historic Site is the principal sponsor, will take place on Saturday, October 24, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., at Sangamon State University in Springfield. This year's theme is "Abraham Lincoln and the Political Process." Speakers will include John Y. Simon, William E. Gienapp, and Cullom Davis. The registration fee, which includes a luncheon, is \$25.00. Checks should be made payable to the Eastern National Monument Association, with "colloquium" written on the memo line of the check, and sent to: Lincoln Colloquium, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 413 South Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1905.

# The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas

Horn, John. The Petersburg Campaign: The Destruction of the Weldon Railroad (Deep Bottom, Globe Tavern and Reams Station, August 14-25, 1864). H.E. Howard, Inc. 1991. \$19.95.

Josephy, Alvin M., Jr. The Civil War in the American West. Knopf. 1991.\$27.50.

Lee, William O. Personal and Historical Sketches and Factual History of and by Members of Seventh Regiment Michigan Volunteer Cavalry 1862-1865. Detroit Book Press, c/o John K. King Books, 901 W. Lafayette Blvd., Detroit, MI 48226. 1990. \$25.00. Original of 1902.

McAfee, Michael J. Zouaves: The First and the Bravest. Thomas Publications, P.O. Box 3031, Gettysburg, PA 17325. 1991. \$16.95.

Miers, Earl S., ed. Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology— 1809-1865. Introduction by Ralph G. Newman. Morningside Press. 1992. \$45.00. Original of 1960.

Miles, Jim. Path to Victory: A History of the Stone's River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Nashville Campaigns. Rutledge Hill Press. 1991. \$19.95.

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). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

Attention, Honorary Life members: Round Table President Mary Abroe wishes to inform you that you received dues invoices solely for the purpose of registering subscriptions to *Civil War History*. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

## Al Meyer Award Acceptance Speech Delivered this day at the Executive Committee Meeting of The Civil War Round Table: Ano Domino, 18 July, 1992

When I received my coveted Al Meyer Award at the June 12 meeting, I was so moved by the misspelling of my name and my sumptuous birthday cake, that I forgot two things.

First: my acceptance speech, where I was going to thank all the little people of Gratis Arts Industries for making this award possible, such as

Gratis Photo, Gratis Printing, Gratis Edit, Gratis Type, etc., etc.

And we will continue to serve under our new Battle Cries:

Papertas omnim artim repertrix. (Poverty is the

invention of all the arts.) and

Valeat quamtum valere potest. (Take it for what it's worth.)

Second: I failed to await my Standing Ovation, which was about to be started by Mr. Marvin Sanderman. So, if Marv will stand and applaud, I will consider that sufficient.

Gratis Arts, unLtd. thanks you, and my mother thanks you.

# Jerry Warshaw

Founder, Forefather, President, and CEO GRATIS ARTS INDUSTRIES, UNLTD.



### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

September 11: Wiley Sword on "Who Speaks for the Dead? A Perspective on Franklin and Nashville."

October 9: Shelby Foote, Nevins-Freeman Address.

November 13: John Hennessy on "Second Manassas: Fresh Perspectives."

December 11: Peter Cozzens on "The Real Rock of Chickamauga: The Twenty-first Ohio on Horseshoe Ridge."

January 8: Brooks Davis on "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln as Commanders in Chief."

February 12: Brian Pohanka on "Digging into Custer's Last Stand: New Perspectives on the Little Big Horn."

March 12: Frank Byrne on "Civil War Prisons: Myths and Realities."

April 16: Frances Kennedy on "Community Benefits of Battlefield Preservation" (Please note: this is the third Friday of the month.)

May 6-9: Annual Battlefield Tour-Vicksburg.

May 14: William Piston on "Clio and the General: James Longstreet and the Writing of Southern History."

June 11: Carol Reardon on "The Image of Pickett's Charge in American History."

### **New Members**

William R. Bennett, 644 S. Stone Avenue, La Grange, IL 60525, (708) 354-5665

Charles J. Ten Brink, 5401 Ridgewood Court, Chicago, IL 60615, (312) 288-3351

The Tenth Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show will be held on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, in Wheaton, Illinois. For further information, call Robert Nowak at (312) 539-8432.

The Eighth Annual West Coast Civil War Conference will take place on November 13-15 in San Jose, California. The theme is "The War on the Mississippi" and the keynote speaker will be William C. Davis. For information, call (408) 879-9039.

A friendly nudge: To make record-keeping more efficient, please try to mail in your dues before the September meeting.

Schimmelfennig Boutique

In addition to The Round Table history, the following items are available at each monthly meeting:

Lapel pins \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00 Mugs \$2.00 each, two for \$3.00

Meeting tapes \$7.00 each Civil War Buff posters \$10.00 each

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.