



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVIII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November 1997

## Theodore J. Karamanski on "Bronze Men and Marble Memories: Sculpture, Commemoration, and the Memory of the Civil War in Chicago"

by Barbara Hughett

"In great deeds, something abides. On great fields, something stays. Forms change and pass; bodies disappear; but spirits linger, to consecrate ground for the vision-place of souls." These words were spoken by General Joshua Chamberlain in an oration at the Gettysburg battlefield site on October 3, 1889. Long after the guns went silent at Appomattox, the sounds of the war echoed in the memories of American veterans. All over the country, thousands of monuments of various kinds have been erected over the years to commemorate the experience of the American Civil War.

On November 14, Theodore J. Karamanski will appear before The Civil War Round Table; the title of his address is "Bronze Men and Marble Memories: Sculpture, Commemoration, and the Memory of the Civil War in Chicago." In his presentation, he will use historic and contemporary illustrations to explore the changing memory of the Civil War among both veterans of the conflict and subsequent generations.

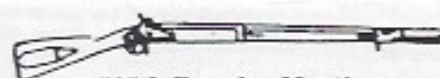
In the decades following Appomattox, Chicagoans built an elaborate memorial landscape to the Civil War. The magnificent statues on the lakefront parks and cemeteries are artifacts which illustrate the often painful process of adjustment between soldiers and civilians which took place after the war. Public art was consciously used by members of the Civil War generation to influence future interpretations of the era.

In twentieth-century Chicago, these statues and monuments have served as indicators of public attitude toward the Civil War and its history. They have functioned as the focus of patriotic rallies as well as of protest movements, as objects of veneration and as the neglected targets of vandalism. The statues of Lincoln, the marble memorials to heroes and units of the Civil War are Chicago's most tangible, interesting, and evocative link to the soldiers—blue and gray. As we listen to the stories of the men of bronze



Theodore J. Karamanski

(continued on page 3)



### 565th Regular Meeting

☆☆☆

Theodore J. Karamanski on "Bronze Men and Marble Memories: Sculpture, Commemoration, and the Memory of the Civil War in Chicago"

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Friday, November 14

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Union League Club  
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members  
\$30 - Nonmembers

Entree: Grilled Chicken with Lemon Herb Sauce or Catch of the Day



### Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, November 12, by calling Registrar 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. No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets.

**NEW PARKING POLICY:** Effective immediately, the new parking rate is \$8.00 if you park between the hours of 4:30-10:30 p.m. in the lot adjacent to the Union League Club. If you do not get your ticket validated or park beyond the hours listed, you MUST pay the full amount.



## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817  
Chicago Illinois 60605  
Phone: 847-698-1438

### 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, 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

■ Registrar Carole LeClaire reminds all Round Table members that the 1997-98 Roster will be typed this month. If you have not already paid this year's dues and you wish to be included on the roster as a member of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago, please have your dues paid no later than November 20.

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

### ☆ UPDATE ☆

by Mary Munsell Abroe

**Regional Trust to Buy Chancellorsville Land:** Early September 1997 saw the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT) place a \$100,000 down payment on 100 acres in the heart of the Chancellorsville battlefield. The property, which has been in private hands, is located in a rapidly developing area of Spotsylvania County. It abuts the eastern border of the Chancellorsville unit of Fredricksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The CVBT currently contemplates donating the land to the park once the \$450,000 (total) deal closes in spring 1998. The tract, which was significant throughout the course of the May 1863 battle, lies within the park's congressionally authorized boundary. For additional information on preservation issues at Fredricksburg/Spotsylvania, contact Acting Supt. John Hennessy, 120 Chatham Drive, Fredricksburg, VA 22405, or 540-371-0802.

**ISTEA Extended:** On October 1, 1997 Congress passed legislation to extend the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991 through March 31, 1998. ISTEA is a federal program that requires states administering federal highway funds to set aside ten percent of those monies for transportation enhancement projects within the state—projects that can range from preserving a wetland to buying or interpreting a battlefield. Since approval of the initial ISTEA measure, program funding has furnished over \$43 million for land acquisition, interpretation, and other "enhancements" related to battlefield preservation.

With the close of the first session of the 105th Congress looming, passage of the extension bill provides time for members of Congress to fashion new laws modeled upon ISTEA. At present Senator John Warner (R-VA) and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the House are working on their own revisions of the original legislation. For additional information, contact the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, 1849 C Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20240.

**Shenandoah Valley Commission Named:** On September 22, 1997, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt designated nineteen members to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission. The commission's charter approves seventeen members nominated by Senator John Warner and Representative Frank Wolf (R-VA), one representing the governor of Virginia, and one representing NPS Director Robert Stanton. Among commissioners chosen by Warner and Wolf are area property owners, delegates of local governments, a Civil War historian, and a historic preservationist.

Congress, which currently is working on project funding as part of the Interior Department's FY98 appropriations bill, approved the historic district and commission in November 1996. Over the past year, the NPS has been involved in establishing the commission, which will devise a strategy for preserving and interpreting the Shenandoah Valley's historic, cultural, and natural resources. For additional information, contact Sandy Rives, Shenandoah National Park, 804-985-7293.



☞ OCTOBER MEETING ☞

by Larry Gibbs

On October 17, at the 564th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 81 members and guests heard Chris E. Fonvielle, Jr., present an informative speech on "The Wilmington Campaign." Fonvielle, a visiting professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, is the author of *The Wilmington Campaign: Last Days of Departing Hope* (1997). He will be a tour guide and speaker on this Round Table's battlefield tour of North Carolina sites this coming April 30 to May 3.

Fonvielle stated, "The Wilmington campaign of December, 1864, and the first two months of 1865 are generally overlooked by historians, which is a mistake. Wilmington, North Carolina, was arguably the most important seaport of the Confederacy. This city lasted longer than any other major southern seaport. Wilmington was part of a major supply line for the Confederacy." Located east of the Cape Fear River, Wilmington had 10,000 residents—mostly slaves—in 1860.

During most of the Civil War, the South depended on imports from Europe, with a 75% success rate for Confederate blockade runners. The federals at first had great difficulty stopping the rebel blockade runners, with only twelve Union vessels available in April of 1861. During the early part of the war, Robert E. Lee said that "Wilmington must be held at all hazards." To defend Wilmington, vast rebel fortifications were constructed. Fort Fisher, situated at the mouth of the Cape Fear River about twenty miles south of Wilmington, was a sand fort, because the sand would absorb the blast from cannonballs much better than a fort constructed from brick.

In September 1864, Brigadier General Braxton Bragg was given control of the protection of Wilmington and Fort Fisher; this might be considered a "last chance" to redeem his reputation. On the Union side, Admiral David Dixon Porter and General Benjamin Butler had the task of developing a combined attack on Fort Fisher. The two-pronged attack, devised by Butler, went awry. At 1:40 a.m. on Christmas Eve, 1864, a federal ship with 300 tons of explosives was moved within 450 yards of the fort, followed by a terrific explosion.

No damage was done to the fort, despite the blast. At noon, Porter took over the second phase of the attack. Porter's fleet fired a tremendous bombardment, which lasted over five hours. Fonvielle stressed, "Sixty-four warships and 612 guns continued to bomb Fort Fisher for ten days. The bombardment was ineffective because the Confederates had shifted their flagpoles to the rear of the fort, where most of the Union shells landed, causing few rebel casualties." On the same day, Butler sent 2,000 men ashore north of Fort Fisher.

When Butler found out that a Confederate division, under Major General Robert F. Hoke, was sent to defend Fort Fisher, he ordered his troops to reembark and head for Hampton Roads. Due to his ineffective leadership in this fiasco, Butler was relieved of his command. Brigadier General Alfred Terry replace Butler early in January of 1865.

After Terry's arrival, Porter began a second bombardment of Fort Fisher on January 13. This effort was planned by Secretary of the Navy Gideon Wells and Porter, both of whom felt that the part of the Union navy

was generally ignored in any victory.

Terry sent 9,600 troops north of Fort Fisher for a planned attack. After two days of bombardment, Fonvielle claimed, "over 4,000 Union troops charged over the ramparts on January 15 and gained a foothold after many hours of hand-to-hand combat. The fort fell into federal hands after a terrific struggle."

On February 19, Fort Anderson, five miles north of Fort Fisher, fell to the Union. On February 22, Bragg evacuated Wilmington; the last great seaport of the Confederacy was now in Union hands. "The last rays of rebel hopes for any chance of victory were dashed as the Union forces discovered a blackened Wilmington," declared Fonvielle. "Three events caused the Wilmington campaign to fall into obscurity, despite its importance: Sherman's conquest of the Carolinas concluded; Lee surrendered to Grant; and Lincoln was assassinated. I sincerely hope that in the future, historians will reassess and appreciate the importance of the Wilmington campaign."

THEODORE J. KARAMANSKI (from page 1)

and marble, we will hear the echoes of the war.

Ted Karamanski, a native of Chicago, received his A.B., A.M., and Ph.D. degrees from Loyola University Chicago, where he has served on the faculty since 1979; he now holds the rank of professor of history. Before he began his teaching career, he served as public historian, archaeological field technician, and historic preservation planner for Fischer-Stein Associates, in Carbondale, Illinois. He also was assistant and advisor for the Chicago Portage Archaeological Project at the Field Museum of Natural History. He has been director of the Mid-American Research Center at Loyola since 1979.

A specialist in the field of public history, Dr. Karamanski has produced numerous radio, video, and exhibit projects. For the past ten years, he has been a consultant to the National Park Service on the preservation and interpretation of history. He is a past president of the National Council on Public History and is the current chair of the editorial board of the *Illinois History Journal*, published by the Illinois State Historical Society. He also chairs the Conference Committee for the Chicago Archdiocese Sesquicentennial and the Core Curriculum Task Force, College of Arts and Sciences, Loyola University.

Karamanski has written numerous articles for professional journals and technical reports for various studies. He is the author of four books: *Fur Trade and Exploration: The Opening of the Far Northwest* (1983); *Deep Woods Frontier: A History of Logging in Michigan* (1989); *One Hundred Years: A History of Roofing in America* (1986); and *Rally 'Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War* (1993). He is the editor of a fifth book, *Ethics and Public History: An Anthology* (1993).

"Major General George Henry Thomas" (aka member Jerome W. Kowalski) opened the season for the South Suburban Civil War Round Table with a presentation in August, and also has addressed several local Kiwanis clubs over the past few months. "General and Mrs. Thomas" have given living history presentations to 700 middle school students and participated in Lockport's Civil War Days.



## The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas

- Barefoot, Daniel, W. *General Robert F. Hoke, Lee's Modest Warrior*. John F. Blair, Publisher. 1996. \$24.95.
- Barnett, Louise. *Touched by Fire: The Life, Death and Mythic Afterlife of George Armstrong Custer*. Henry Holt. 1996. \$30.
- Barrow, Charles K., J. H. Segars and R. B. Rosenburg, eds. *Forgotten Confederates: An Anthology About Black Southerners*. Southern Heritage Press. 1996. Pbk. \$15.
- Baumgartner, Richard A. and Larry M. Strayer. *Echoes of Battle: The Struggle for Chattanooga. An Illustrated Collection of Union and Confederate Narratives*. Blue Acorn Press. 1996. \$40.
- Bennett, Brian A. *The Beau Ideal of a Soldier and a Gentleman: The Life of Col. Patrick Henry O'Rourke From Ireland to Gettysburg*. Triphammer Publ. Co., PO Box 45, Scottsdale, NY 14546-0045. 1996. \$22.95.
- Booth, Benjamin and Steve Meyer. *Dark Days of the Rebellion: Life in Southern Military Prisons*. Meyer Publ. Co., Box 247, Garrison, IA 52229. 1996. \$24.95.
- Boyle, Frank A. *A Part of Mad Fellows: The Story of the Irish Regiments in the Army of the Potomac*. Morningside Bookshop. 1996. \$29.95.

Former President Jerry Warshaw will address the luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Monday, November 24. His presentation, "The Specials," focuses on the sketch artists of the Civil War, who provided the illustrations for such periodicals as *Harper's Weekly*, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, and *The New York Illustrated News*. Warshaw, a well-known artist, illustrator, and author of several children's books, also serves as an interpreter at the Chicago Historical Society and the Museum of Broadcast Communications. A reception begins at the Union League Club at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

A lengthy interview with founding member Ralph G. Newman, "Decades of Dealing," is the lead article in the September 1997 issue of *The Rail Splitter: A Journal for the Lincoln Collector*.

### 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). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-Shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

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

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

**November 14:** Theodore J. Karamanski on "Bronze Men and Marble Memories: Sculpture, Commemoration, and the Memory of the Civil War in Chicago"

**December 12:** Tom Sweeney on "General 'Fightin' Tom' Sweeney" (This meeting only will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza.)

**January 9:** Dan McCarthy on "The 83rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry"

**February 13:** Scott Hartwig, topic to be announced

**March 13:** Mark Bradley on "Bentonville"

**April 17:** Keith Rocco on "Civil War Art" (This is the **THIRD Friday**)

**April 29-May 3:** Annual Battlefield Tour, "Western Armies on the Carolina Campaign"

**May 8:** Nathaniel Cheairs Hugheson "Writing Civil War History"

**June 12:** John Michael Priest on "Pickett's Charge"

### NEW MEMBERS

Constance Bonbrest, 830 Ada, Chicago, IL 60607, 312-733-1250

Mary and Martin Cigledy, 605 Dorchester Road, Falls Church, VA 22046

Mary Franklin, 400 Asbury, Evanston, IL 60202, 847-328-7779

Kevin Howell, 400 E. Ohio #1203, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-337-4468

Jack Leathers, 110 Oak Rim Court #20, Los Gatos, CA 95032

Robert H. Reeder, 600 Hinman Avenue #416, Evanston, IL 60202, 847-869-3746

Margaret Sampson, 7355 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626, 773-761-6554

Jack Schulte, 900 N. Lake Shore Drive #1712, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-337-7747

Mark E. Smith, 25 McIntosh Avenue, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514, 630-986-0549

Diane Stevenson, 8638 Dory Lane, Willow Springs, IL 60480, 708-839-0003

George Vergeront, 1240 W. Jarvis, Chicago, IL 60626, 773-274-0480

### Change of Address

C. Robert and Kitty Douglas, 1000 West 55th Street, Kansas City, MO 64113

The Lincoln Group of New York will present its 1997 Award of Achievement to The Lincoln Forum, a new national membership association dedicated to the study of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. It will be presented on November 13 to Judge Frank J. Williams, founding chair of the Lincoln Forum. (Judge Williams is a longtime member of the Chicago Round Table and was our speaker in September of 1994.)