

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

January 1999

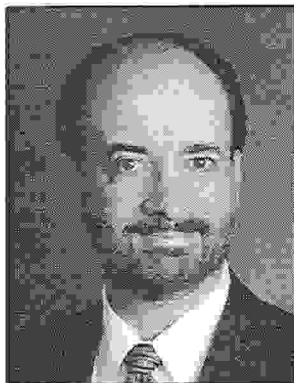
Marshall D. Krolick on "Council of War: Meade and His Generals, July 2, 1863"

by Barbara Hughett

ON THE night of July 2, 1863, after two days of furious combat at Gettysburg, George Gordon Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac for only five days, called his corps commanders and other high-ranking subordinates to his headquarters for a meeting. It was an invitation Meade would long regret, for—as the conference progressed—its purpose was manipulated by Daniel Butterfield, the chief of staff Meade had inherited from his predecessor, Joseph Hooker.

Round Table icon Marshall D. Krolick will present the address on January 15; his topic will be "Council of War: Meade and His Generals, July 2, 1863." In his presentation, Krolick will provide an in-depth discussion of the background of this meeting—including Meade's reasons for calling it, the events that transpired during the meeting, what role Washington politics played in it, and the controversy which arose after the battle because of the meeting. This controversy was highlighted by the testimony of many of the principals before the politically-motivated Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War.

A native Chicagoan, Marshall D. Krolick received his B.A. degree from Drake University and his J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law. A partner in the Chicago law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, he specializes in commercial and industrial real estate and the legal aspects of construction projects. Mr. Krolick is also extremely active in various civic and religious affairs. He has served as president of Congregation B'Nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim in Glenview; executive vice president of the Les Turner Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation, Ltd.; and for twenty-one years, as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals of Northbrook, Illinois. He is currently a vice chairman of the board of trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the international organization which represents over 850 Reform Jewish synagogues on the North American continent.



Marshall D. Krolick

Marshall Krolick has been a member of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago since 1961, when he was a law student at Northwestern. He had long been interested in the American Civil War, since childhood trips to visit relatives who

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
577th Regular Meeting

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MARSHALL D. KROLICK ON "COUNCIL OF WAR: MEADE AND HIS GENERALS, JULY 2, 1863"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Friday, January 15
 (Please Note: This is the **THIRD** Friday of the month)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
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: Brochette of Chicken and Vegetables or Catch of the Day



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by Wednesday, January 13, 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.

Parking is available at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club, at the rate of \$8 per car if you park between the hours of 4:30-10:30 p.m. If you do not get your ticket validated or park beyond the hours listed, you must pay the full amount.

(continued on page 4)

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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Vice President.....	Bruce Allardice
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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.

We recently learned of the death, this past August, of Dr. Michael Bradmore, president of the American Civil War Round Table, UK, and one of the group's founding members (in 1953). We read about this in the British group's fine newsletter, *Crossfire*. Our deepest condolences go to his family and friends.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by Mary Munsell Abroe

Battlefield Preservation Fund Benefits Two Organizations: Members of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee have authorized contributions of \$1,000 to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and \$500 to the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust (CVBT). The APCWS, a membership-driven, national non-profit organization headquartered in Hagerstown, Maryland, protects historically significant land through outright purchase or negotiation of easements. While continuing its preservation and educational activities, APCWS currently focuses on paying for its acquisition of Brandy Station. The CVBT possesses an admirable track record for an organization still in its infancy. Founded two years ago, it has been involved in preserving over one hundred acres of threatened land, including eight-plus acres at Marye's Heights in Fredericksburg and, more recently, a five-acre tract in Chancellorsville's western sector that figured prominently in Stonewall Jackson's flank attack of May 2, 1863. Because we will be visiting the area during the course of our 1999 annual battlefield tour, this donation is particularly appropriate.

Both of these gifts came from the proceeds of our longtime monthly book raffle and our newly inaugurated silent book auction—the latter made possible by the generous donation of books from our late founding member Ralph Newman and his widow Patricia. The Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee—Mary Abroe, Roger Bohn, Larry Gibbs, and Marshall Krolick—welcomes members' input in determining recipients of fund monies. Please contact any of the Committee members with your comments and/or suggestions.

National Park Service Begins Restoration Work at Fort Duncan on Maryland Heights: The Fall 1998 newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program, an arm of the National Park Service, reports that projects involving stabilization and interpretation of Fort Duncan (within the C & O Canal National Historical Park) started this fall. This structure is a well-preserved earthwork that served as the left anchor of the "Bernard Line," a series of fortifications along Maryland Heights protecting Harpers Ferry from assault.

Built during the winter of 1862-63 after Stonewall Jackson's capture of Harpers Ferry during the Antietam campaign, Fort Duncan's principal role was to flank Bolivar Heights, which defended the western approaches to Harpers Ferry. The fort's effectiveness was such that the Maryland Heights defenses never were assaulted after its construction, with the notable exception of Jubal Early's demonstration against Union troops under Franz Sigel in July 1864.

In the 1970s, the National Park Service (NPS) acquired three hundred-plus acres at Fort Duncan, which is located upstream from Harpers Ferry on a wide bend in the Potomac River. Current work at the site includes stabilizing the fort, eliminating potentially destructive vegetation, leasing historic structures and agricultural acreage, and building and improving interpretive trails.

For additional information on the American Battlefield Protection Program of the NPS, visit it online at: www2.cr.nps.gov/abpp/. The program may be reached by phone at 202-343-3941 or by fax at 202-343-3921.

❧ DECEMBER MEETING ❧

by Larry Gibbs

On December 11, Paul Finkelman presented an engaging address to 81 members and guests at the 576th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. His topic was "Lincoln, Race, and Slavery: Understanding the Emancipation Proclamation in the Context of Nineteenth Century Law and Politics." Dr. Finkelman, the John F. Seiberling Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Akron School of Law, is the author of more than a dozen books, including *Dred Scott v. Sandford: A Brief History* (1997). A dynamic speaker, Finkelman explained and evaluated the historiography and the essence of the Emancipation Proclamation and Abraham Lincoln's reputation as the "Great Emancipator."

Although Lincoln has generally been considered our greatest president, his reputation as the Great Emancipator has been challenged over the last half-century. He has been pictured as a great propagandist, an opportunistic racist, and a white supremacist by various historians. Several viewed Lincoln suspiciously because he supported the colonization of blacks back to Africa at the start of the Civil War. Some historians claimed that Lincoln acted on emancipation only when events forced him to act. Finkelman persuasively argued that these revisionists have not succeeded in changing the conventional historical view of Lincoln.

Finkelman explained, "Some historians rejected the Great Emancipator interpretation because they rejected the theory that one individual can have a huge impact on history." Finkelman believes that sometimes one individual does matter. "If one man ever did matter, it was Lincoln during the Civil War," he asserted.

The Emancipation Proclamation committed the U.S. government and its armed forces to liberate the slaves in the eleven rebel states. This document exempted the border states and parts of Union-controlled Confederate states because these areas were not in rebellion against the United States. The proclamation also authorized the recruitment of freed slaves and free blacks as Union soldiers. Some historians have criticized the Emancipation Proclamation for its limited objectives. They claimed that this document did not even free slaves in the border states and that the proclamation was only a ploy to keep England and France from supporting the Confederacy. To counteract these points, Finkelman stressed that President Lincoln was the first president to deal with emancipation in any manner. Lincoln was the first president to ask a black man, Frederick Douglass, to come to the White House for consultation and advice. In short, Lincoln was the first president to support civil rights.

According to Finkelman, "Lincoln was the ultimate lawyer and consummate politician. As a lawyer, he analyzed problems that cut deeply into an issue. Lincoln pushed pragmatism so that any case could be settled promptly. He had total dedication to the Union and fidelity to the U.S. Constitution." He felt that he had been forced to compromise his anti-slavery viewpoint because the Constitution was pro-slavery. As a pragmatist, Lincoln felt that he could not attack slavery in the states. When the South seceded, he thought that he could free the slaves with an executive order at the appropriate time. This proclamation was a war measure. If the war ended early because of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln felt that the savings of lives and money would be valuable. He struck blows at slavery whenever possible. Always uncomfortable with slavery, Lincoln

expanded his tolerant views on racial equality during his presidency.

The Emancipation Proclamation was drawn up by Lincoln in July of 1862, issued five days after the Battle of Antietam, on September 22, 1863, and took effect on January 1, 1863. This document was not written as a speech, but as a document a lawyer would write—with a great deal of legal and stiff wording. Finkelman claimed, "Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation in crystal clear language that a judge (such as Chief Justice Roger Taney) could not arbitrarily overturn. Although Lincoln was the most eloquent president, he did not intend to be eloquent with the Emancipation Proclamation." Lincoln, a genius at legal theory, knew that the only people who could challenge the legitimacy of this proclamation lived in the Confederacy. Finkelman queried, "Was Jefferson Davis going to challenge this document in 1863 from Richmond? Of course not!"

The Emancipation Proclamation was a legal measure that Lincoln's administration used before Congress could bridge the gap with the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in 1865. Lincoln was the driving force behind the passage of the 13th Amendment in Congress before the Proclamation could be overturned. Since the Emancipation Proclamation was a war measure, it could be voided once the Civil War ended.

With regard to the question concerning credit for emancipation, Finkelman recognized the importance of both Lincoln and the slaves. He stated, "Lincoln led and was led by thousands of slaves who voted with their feet. Fugitive slaves forced Union soldiers to accept them. After the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, runaway slaves became more numerous."

Concerning colonization, Lincoln had suggested to the slaveholders that they should free the slaves first, then send them to Africa. Lincoln knew that until freedom occurred, nothing else mattered. According to Finkelman, Lincoln felt that freed slaves should go to where they would be safe. An important point was made when Finkelman proclaimed, "After emancipation, Lincoln never mentioned colonization; the Emancipation Proclamation made colonization a moot point for Lincoln." Blacks were given blue uniforms during the Civil War. Afterwards the uniforms were exchanged for access to voting booths, with the passage of the 15th Amendment. During the war, the freed blacks threw their full weight behind the Union cause by tens of thousands. The last paragraph of the Proclamation encouraged the recruitment of black troops, which accounted for ten percent of Union troops. Stephen Oates, a present-day historian, thinks that these black troops may have been the final impetus for Union victory in the Civil War. Lincoln was very correct when he stated, "If my name ever goes into history, it will be for this act (the Emancipation Proclamation)."



Former President Marshall Krolick and Trustee Frank Patton, president of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table, will address the regular luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Monday, January 25. Their topic will be: "Part II: Bermuda 100-Petersburg Campaign, June 1864." A reception begins at the Union League Club at 11:30; lunch is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000. (*Editor's Note: We apologize for the error in the listing for last month's luncheon; we were given the incorrect date by the president of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table.*)

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Schiller, Herbert M. *Sumter is Avenged: The Siege and Reduction of Fort Pulaski*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1995. \$29.95.
- Schott, Thomas E. *Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia — A Biography*. LSU Press. 1996. \$45.00. Pbk. \$19.95. Original of 1988.
- Schroeder-Lein, Glenna R. *Confederate Hospitals on the Move — Samuel Stout and the Army of Tennessee*. U. of S. Carolina Press. 1994. Pbk. \$14.95.
- Schultz, Duane. *Quantrill's War: The Life and Times of William Clarke Quantrill 1837-1865*. St. Martin's Press. 1996. \$24.95.
- Sibley, F. Ray, Jr. *The Confederate Order of Battle, Volume 1: The Army of Northern Virginia*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1996. \$80.00.
- Silber, Nina and Sievens, Mary Beth. *Yankee Correspondence: Civil War Letters Between New England Soldiers and the Home Front*. U. of Virginia Press. 1996. \$29.95.
- Slagle, Jay. *Ironclad Captain: Seth Ledyard Phelps and the U. S. Navy, 1841-1864*. Kent State U. Press. 1996. \$35.00.
- Smith, Robin. *The Union Army (Uniforms and Equipment)*. Brassey's. 1996. \$31.95.

MARSHALL D. KROLICK (continued from page 1)

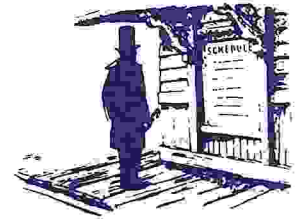
lived near the Gettysburg battlefield. A fellow law student, Ted Gertz—son of our only living founding member, Elmer Gertz—told Marshall about The Round Table. The rest, as “they” say, is history.

Marshall has served The Round Table in capacities far too numerous to list here in full, but including president (1971-72) and newsletter editor (1974-79). He created the first meeting quiz in 1968, and continued as quizmaster/inspector general for several years thereafter. He is the traditional host of the Fun Night festivities on the final evening of the annual spring battlefield tours and, of course, was the recipient of the coveted Confederate Purple Heart in 1982. In 1985, he was awarded Honorary Life membership in The Round Table and was the 1990 recipient of its Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished scholarship and dedication to the study of the American Civil War.

In addition to speaking regularly on Civil War topics to schools and civic organizations in Illinois, he has addressed Civil War organizations and symposiums throughout the country, and has served as a guide for tours of Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields. His published works on the Civil War include articles which have appeared in numerous Civil War journals and popular magazines. He wrote the Introduction to Morningside Bookshop's reprint edition of the *History of the Eighth Cavalry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers*, and for several years was the author of a regular column in *Civil War Times Illustrated*.

Marshall has addressed this Round Table on a number of occasions, at regular meetings and during various Round Table-sponsored symposiums and seminars. He last appeared before us in May of 1996, when his topic was “The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign.”

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.

January 15, 1999: Marshall D. Krolick on “Council of War: Meade and His Generals on July 2, 1863” (**This is the THIRD Friday**)

February 12: Edwin C. Bearss, topic to be announced

March 12: Peter Cozzins, topic to be announced

April 9: Gary Gallagher, topic to be announced

April 29–May 2: Annual Battlefield Tour, Fredericksburg

May 14: Michael Andrus, topic to be announced

June 11: Thomas P. Sweeney, topic to be announced

(*Editor's Note: We apologize for not having topics listed for all of our upcoming speakers, as we usually do. As soon as President Nethery gets this information to us, we will print it.*)

NEW MEMBERS

Dennis Brinkman, 592 Tamarisk Lane, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, 815-477-3828

Dave Hubbard, 666 Greenbriar, Crystal Lake, IL 60014, 815-455-6939

Cindy Intravartolo, 3127 Harlem Avenue, #2-E, Berwyn, IL 60402, 708-788-3246

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Ted Birndorf, 2909 N. Sheridan Road, #1204, Chicago, IL 60657

Barbara Hughett, 7621 N. Sheridan Road, #1-E, Chicago, IL 60626

A federal judge in Washington, D.C., has ordered the U.S. Army to reconsider the conviction of Dr. Samuel Mudd, the physician who treated John Wilkes Booth—the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln—over 133 years ago. The ruling is a legal victory for Dr. Richard Mudd, Samuel Mudd's 97-year-old grandson. Richard Mudd, a Saginaw, Michigan, physician, has been trying for decades to clear his grandfather's name. (Dr. Richard Mudd addressed this Round Table at its 210th regular meeting in April of 1962.)

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.