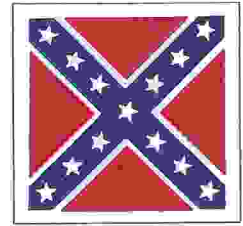


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LX, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 1999



584th REGULAR MEETING

NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS
DAVID HERBERT DONALD
ON "A CLOSE, WARM, AND
SINCERE FRIENDSHIP:
ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND
ORVILLE H. BROWNING"

Friday, October 8

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago Members

Entrees:

*Sliced Strip Loin with
Pommerey Mustard
Bordelaise
or Catch of the Day*



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, October 4** 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.

PARKING: 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 \$3 with a validated parking sticker.

NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS

DAVID HERBERT DONALD

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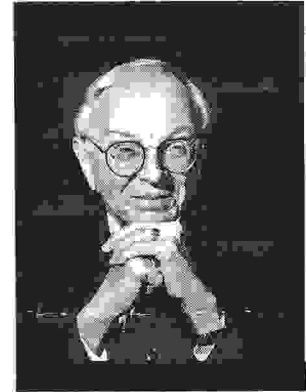
"A Close, Warm, and Sincere Friendship: Abraham Lincoln and Orville H. Browning"

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

The Nevins-Freeman Award, named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in 1974. It is presented to individuals to honor their outstanding contributions to the preservation of American history, especially that which occurred between the years 1861-1865. On October 8, renowned Lincoln and Civil War scholar David Herbert Donald will become the twenty-sixth annual recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award.

The title of his acceptance address is "A Close, Warm, and Sincere Friendship: Abraham Lincoln and Orville H. Browning." The talk is based on a segment of Dr. Donald's new book, *Lincoln's Men: A Meditation on Friendship*. In this book, he attempts to explore the curious fact that Abraham Lincoln probably had more friends than any other of his contemporary men in Illinois—but that he had almost no intimate, close friends.

One man who came close to being such an intimate was Orville H. Browning, a Kentuckian by birth who moved to Quincy, Illinois, in 1831 and was elected to the Illinois Senate in 1836. An organizer of the Republican party, he helped secure that party's nomination for Lincoln in 1860 and was appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1861 to fill the seat vacated by the death of Stephen A. Douglas.



David Herbert Donald

Browning and his wife Eliza were personal friends of the Lincolns and frequent White House visitors. They stayed at the White House to be with Mary and Abraham Lincoln during eleven-year-old Willie Lincoln's terminal illness in 1862.

In his talk, Donald will explore why these two very dissimilar men were drawn together in a political and social alliance. He will examine the very close relations that developed between the President and Senator Browning during the first year of the Civil War and then analyze the reasons why they gradually drifted apart.

David Donald, a native of Goodman, Mississippi, did his undergraduate work at Millsaps College, and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, where he was the research assistant of the great Lincoln scholar J.G. Randall, who also directed his dissertation. He developed a friendship with Carl Sandburg, who wrote an introduction for Donald's first book *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948), a biography of Lincoln's colorful and controversial law partner, William H. Herndon.

At Columbia University, he was the office mate of Allan Nevins, who was then preparing his *Ordeal of the Union*. David Donald has twice won the Pulitzer Prize: in 1961 for *Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War* and in 1988 for *Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe*.

Other books he has written include:

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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

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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 LaSalle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

House Subdivision Threatened Near Harpers Ferry Park: The September 1999 issue of *Civil War News* reports that, earlier this spring, the Jefferson County (West Virginia) Planning Commission ruled favorably on initial action taken to develop seventy-six acres of historically significant land adjacent to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. This development, in the form of 200-plus family homes, is intended for the historic Murphy Farm on the eastern incline of Bolivar Heights bordering the park entrance; the farm figured in the Stonewall Jackson-ordered flanking of the Union left on Bolivar Heights during the night of September 14-15, 1862—an A.P. Hill-executed movement that doomed the beleaguered Union post at Harpers Ferry. Commenting on the need for an unspoiled site, Ed Bearss discounts the developers' offer to save the property's earthworks as immaterial: "It is critical in understanding Stonewall Jackson's tactical maneuvers that sealed the fate of Harpers Ferry to be able to see this landscape."

The Harpers Ferry Conservancy, a local advocacy group, attained a temporary reprieve in mid-August, when a stay was issued in state circuit court against additional action by the county planning commission until a lawsuit instituted by the conservancy is heard. The possibility also exists that the federal EPA will require an "environmental impact statement" concerning the consequences of the subdivision's sewer system for the site's remains—also a temporary measure. The acreage in question lies outside of the congressionally established park borders—a fact that ordinarily would bar the Service from buying the property but in reality a moot point, since Congress's current inclination is not to fund NPS land acquisition directly, regardless of a property's significance. At any rate, a relatively recent NPS study did designate the Murphy Farm site as "worthy of national protection." Park Superintendent Don Campbell and members of a local Friends group have joined the Harpers Ferry Conservancy in actively opposing development—the hope (as usual) being that, with more time, acquisition of the threatened land by a preservation-minded group or individual will happen. Superintendent Campbell is not buoyantly optimistic

about the final outcome of a case like this, in which the usually anti-park expansion county officials are involved. However, he voiced the possibility that increasing grass-roots frustration with suburban sprawl, along with public awareness that two hundred houses would constitute "development on a national battlefield that could not be mitigated," might figure in the development's fate.

Locals who are fighting this battle for us ask that we contact Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt (1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240) or Senator Byrd of West Virginia (SH-11, Washington, D.C. 20510) with our concerns regarding the proposed "Murphy's Landing" development at Harpers Ferry.

Congressional Consideration of Interior Funding Continues: The September/October 1999 issue of *National Parks* magazine holds mixed reviews about the congressional budgeting process affecting national parks that is underway currently. An important negative is the Senate's proposal to gut President Clinton's nearly \$800-million Lands Legacy Initiative to less than \$300 million in an Interior Appropriations bill for FY2000. (The House has approved its version of the measure.) The intent of Clinton's initiative is to provide monies to acquire national park inholdings (potentially including those on battlefields) from private landowners and also to fight dangers posed by development next to park lands. Both houses, on the other hand, have approved the \$1.4-billion figure set by the president for the Park Service's operating expenses, although one problematic amendment was added as the Senate measure proceeded through channels. This amendment, emerging from the volatile and politicized atmosphere surrounding the Gettysburg Visitor Center issue, forbids the National Park Service from resiting the Visitor Center without congressional authorization. Relocation, however, is needed: the current Visitor Center (along with the Cyclorama Center) constitute an egregious intrusion on the historic landscape, and the existing facilities are inadequate from a storage, educational, and interpretive point of view.



Congratulations to Jerome "Lucky" Kowalski, winner of the Mort Kunstler print, "Lee's Lieutenants," at the CWRT drawing Saturday, September 18, at the Civil War Collectors' Show in Wheaton. The Battlefield Preservation Fund netted over \$500, and we thank the many people who made this possible.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

On September 17, Dr. Kenneth J. Winkle spoke about "The Village on the Bluff: New Salem's Role in the Rise of Abraham Lincoln" before 87 members and guests at the 583rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Winkle, an associate professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, author of *The Politics of Community* (1989), wrote the Introduction to a new edition of Ida Tarbell's *Abraham Lincoln and His Ancestors* (1997) and is now completing a book concerning the influence of New Salem and Springfield on the career of Abraham Lincoln. In an interesting and informative manner, Winkle gave a presentation that coincides with this Round Table's tour of New Salem and Springfield on October 22-24.

"Though Abraham Lincoln lived in New Salem only six years—1831 to 1837—in many ways these were the most remarkable years in Lincoln's life," Winkle asserted. "He achieved manhood in New Salem and grew in every possible way." New Salem, a village about twenty miles northwest of Springfield, was the place where Lincoln arrived in 1831 at the age of 22, when his flatboat was unable to go over a dam by the gristmill. Soon Lincoln became a resident of the village on the bluff.

During his New Salem years, Lincoln attempted ten different occupations—from farmer to clerk, to storeowner, to lawyer, to state legislator. "At New Salem Lincoln developed long-lasting friendships, fell in love, chose a career, and entered politics," stated Winkle. In this time span, some of Lincoln's most formative young adult years occurred.

The Sangamon River and available lumber were the reasons for the founding of New Salem in 1829. The gristmill was the center of economic activity within a sixty-mile radius. Soon after arriving, Lincoln became a clerk in Denton Offutt's general store, but this job lasted only nine months because the store went out of business. However, Lincoln had become popu-

lar with the townsfolk while working as a clerk in the store. He found out about local news and politics while socializing and reading at the store. The young clerk had a great deal of time on his hands since the store had an average of just eight customers a day.

For one-and-a-half years, Lincoln boarded at the Rutledge Tavern, owned by James Rutledge. This tavern, the largest building in the village, had two rooms. A meal cost 25 cents and the room rate for one night was 12½ cents. While he was staying here, he became acquainted with Ann Rutledge, the daughter of James. Lincoln was a virtual member of the family. Winkle indicated that, in his opinion, the relationship between Ann and Abraham was probably platonic. "I think that Lincoln loved Ann Rutledge, but it was a relationship similar to that of first cousins," he

opined. Eventually, James Rutledge and his daughter Ann both died of a typhoid epidemic. Winkle claimed that though Lincoln certainly grieved Ann's death, he did not believe that he was engaged to her at the time of her death.

Lincoln became part owner of a store with William Berry, but Berry also died of typhoid, leaving Lincoln with \$500 worth of debt—an enormous sum in those days. Other New Salem storeowners who had found themselves in similar circumstances simply left the town in the middle of the night. The general store that Lincoln co-owned failed, but he stayed in New Salem. By eventually paying off the entire debt, he earned the sobriquet "Honest Abe."

Abraham Lincoln used his intelligence to climb the socio-economic ladder. Most (about 80%) men living in Illinois in the 1830s were farmers. Lincoln chose to go in different occupational directions. He became a surveyor, then studied geometry and logic, which led to a study of law. During the process of becoming a lawyer, he was inclined to pursue his eventual career in politics. Indeed, Abraham Lincoln illustrated his growth in maturity and ambition during his New Salem years in many ways.



DAVID HERBERT DONALD

(continued from page 1)

Inside Lincoln's Cabinet: The Civil War Diaries of Salmon P. Chase (1954); *Lincoln Reconsidered* (1951, 1961); *Why the North Won the Civil War* (1960); with J.G. Randall, *The Civil War and Reconstruction, 1863-67* (1965); and *Charles Sumner and the Rights of Man* (1970). He is the author of the highly-acclaimed 1995 one-volume biography *Lincoln*, which Mark E. Neely, Jr., called "the best biography of Lincoln I have ever read." He is also the author of a recent book, *Lincoln at Home: Two Glimpses of Abraham Lincoln's Domestic Life*, published in a limited deluxe edition by Thornwillow Press and in paperback by the White House Historical Association.

Dr. Donald is currently Charles Warren Professor Emeritus of American History at Harvard University. He has also taught at Johns Hopkins, Oxford, and Columbia Universities. Among his many honors is the 1988 Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Illinois and an honorary doctorate (1996) from Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois.

This past June he addressed the American Academy of Achievement from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington. On October 29, he is giving the annual Heritage Lecture of the White House Historical Association in Washington on "Lessons from Lincoln: What the Voter in 2000 Can Learn from 1860."

PREVIOUS NEVINS-FREEMAN HONOREES

Bruce Catton, 1974
 Ralph G. Newman, 1975
 T. Harry Williams, 1976
 Lloyd D. Miller, 1977
 Bell I. Wiley, 1978
 E.B. Long, 1979
 Edwin C. Bearss, 1980
 James I. Robertson, Jr., 1981
 Frank E. Vandiver, 1982
 John Hope Franklin, 1983
 Richard B. Harwell, 1984
 John Y. Simon, 1985
 Harold M. Hyman, 1986
 James T. Hickey, 1987
 Robert K. Krick, 1988
 Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1989
 Marshall D. Krolick, 1990
 Gary W. Gallagher, 1991
 Shelby Foote, 1992
 Stephen B. Oates, 1993
 Alan T. Nolan, 1994
 Richard N. Current, 1995
 James M. McPherson, 1996
 Wiley Sword, 1997
 William C. Davis, 1998

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Bee, Robert L., ed. *The Boys from Rockville: Civil War Narratives of Sgt. Benjamin Hirst, Company D, 14th Connecticut Volunteers*. U. of Tennessee Press. 1998. \$35.00.

Bilby, Joseph G. and William C. Goble. *"Remember You Are Jerseymen": A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War*. Longstreet House. 1998. \$48.00.

Bilby, Joseph G. and Stephen D. O'Neill, eds. *"My Sons Were Faithful and They Fought": The Irish Brigade at Antietam, an Anthology*. Longstreet House. 1997. Pbk. \$18.00.

Black, Robert C., III. *The Railroads of the Confederacy*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1998. Pbk. \$18.95. Original of 1952.

Blair, William. *Virginia's Private War: Feeding Body and Soul in the Confederacy, 1861-1865*. Oxford U. Press. 1999. \$32.50.

Blakey, Arch F., Ann S. Lainhart and Wilson B. Stephens, ed. *Rose Cottage Chronicles: Civil War Letters of the Bryant-Stephens Families of North Florida*. U. Press of Florida. 1998. \$34.95.

Briggs, Ward W. Jr., ed. *Soldier and Scholar: Basil Lanneau Gildersleeve and the Civil War*. U. of Virginia Press. 1998. \$47.50.

Brooksher, William R. *War Along the Bayous: The 1864 Red River Campaign in Louisiana*. Brassey's. 1998. \$27.95.

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.



Registrar Carole LeClaire has announced that all 1999-2000 dues must be paid by October 31 or you will be removed from the rolls. If your dues payment has not been received by that date, you will not receive your November newsletter.

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.

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago has begun making plans for a 60th Anniversary Celebration. An all-day symposium and gala evening banquet will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2000. A 60th Anniversary Committee has been formed, with Marvin Sanderman as its chairman. An all-star cast of speakers and other special events are being planned. Look for further announcements in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Items of Interest

The Fourth Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium will be held on November 16-18 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The 1999 Richard N. Current Award of Achievement will be presented to Lincoln scholar and former Illinois Senator Paul Simon. Speakers include William C. Davis, Gary Gallagher, Craig Symonds, John Y. Simon, John Waugh, David Long, William Pederson, Harold Holzer, and Frank J. Williams. For information, contact Judge Frank J. Williams, Chairman of the Lincoln Forum (401-782-4140; 401-364-3642; alincoln@worldnet.att.net).

P. Ailliot (PAilliot@aol.com), chairman of The American Civil War Round Table of France, has informed us of that group's new website (<http://hometown.aol.com/CCFFpa/index.html>). They would like to hear from members of American CWRTs.

Longtime member Paul Klekner will address the Union League Club Civil War Round Table's luncheon meeting on Monday, October 25. His topic will be "Desperados and Dupes: the Confederate Conspiracy to Steal the Union Election of 1864." A reception begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

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.

October 8: David Herbert Donald, Nevins-Freeman Address, "A Close, Warm, and Sincere Friendship: Abraham Lincoln and Orville H. Browning"

October 22-24: "Looking for Lincoln" Tour

November 12: Charles P. Roland, "An Antebellum Southerner Defends Slavery"

December 10: Cullom Davis, "From Court House to White House: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln"

January 14: Cathy Beeler, "The Battle of Monacacy"

February 11: Thomas Cartwright, "Stones River"

March 10: Craig Symonds, "The Battle of Mobile Bay"

April 14: Herbert Mitgang, "Lincoln and the Press"

May 3-7: Annual Battlefield Tour (50th Annual Tour), Middle Tennessee

May 12: Robert Zeller, "The Civil War in Depth: Stereoptic Views of the Conflict"

June 9: John Y. Simon, topic to be announced

NEW MEMBERS

John C. Berrett, 360 E. Randolph Street, #2205, Chicago, IL 60601, 312-565-1894

Dave McCarragher, 150 Newton Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5344, 630-240-4901

Emmett O'Hara, 2043 N. Wolcott, Chicago, IL 60614, 312-666-3020

Ray Rusnak, 1901 Campbell Street, Valparaiso, IN 46385, 219-465-1129

Donald E. Waldman, 32 Middlesex Drive, St. Louis, MO 63144

James E. Wilson, 1515 Ashland Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016, 847-824-0275

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