

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LX, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November 1999



## 583rd REGULAR MEETING

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### CHARLES P. ROLAND ON "AN ANTEBELLUM SOUTHERNER DEFENDS SLAVERY"

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Friday, November 12

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HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$25 - Members      \$30 - Nonmembers

#### Entree:

Woodland Chicken topped  
with Smoked Bacon and  
Wild Mushrooms  
or Catch of the Day



#### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, November 8**, 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.

## CHARLES P. ROLAND

~ on ~

### "An Antebellum Southerner Defends Slavery"

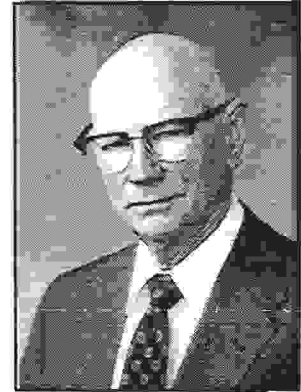
#### COTTON CREATED BOOMING PLANTATION ECONOMY

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

Nineteenth-century southerners often bristled at attacks on the institution of slavery, the linchpin of their social system. Many claimed that it was a "necessary" evil for the time being because of the possible explosive racial repercussions of emancipation. However, southern public opinion had altered by the 1830s, when the growing demand for cotton had created a booming plantation economy in the South.

"Abolitionist attacks on slavery," James McPherson notes in *Battle Cry of Freedom*, placed southerners on the defensive and goaded them into angry counterattacks. By 1840 slavery was no longer a necessary evil; it was a great 'moral, social, and political blessing—a blessing to the slave and a blessing to the master.'" John C. Calhoun called slavery "the most safe and stable basis for free institutions in the world."

"An Antebellum Southerner Defends Slavery" will be the topic of Charles P. Roland when he addresses The Civil War Round Table on November 12. Dr. Roland, using letters between two college friends of the period as background, will present



Charles P. Roland

some views of educated southerners toward slavery in the antebellum South.

Currently holding the position of Alumni Professor Emeritus at the University of Kentucky, Charles Roland received his B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from

Louisiana State University. A native of Maury City, Tennessee, he served as a combat infantry officer (rank of captain) in the European Theater in World War II. He was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service, the Purple Heart for wounds received in action,

and the Belgian Fourragère for "extraordinary heroism" in the battle of the Ardennes.

Before coming to the University of Kentucky in 1970, he served on the faculty of Tulane University in New Orleans for eighteen years, four of those years as chair of the history department. He has also worked as a historical technician for the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., and was a visiting professor on two separate occasions at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

(continued on page 2)



## 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, SuiteC-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

Various Civil War Round Tables in the Chicago area, coordinated by Mary M. Abroe, are contributing to the recently inaugurated education fund of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS). The purpose of the fund is to raise money for educational projects such as the APCWS' upcoming essay/poster contest. These projects seek to attract students and teachers, as well as parents, to further interest and education on our Civil War heritage. Wonder why we think this is worthwhile? The following will answer that very well. It was the second-place winner from the recent APCWS Essay Contest titled: "Why Preserve Our Battlefields?" and it was written by a 14-year-old seventh grader, Julia Strusienki, of Sewickley Academy, Pennsylvania.

*We must preserve our Civil War battlefields because they are sites of extraordinary history, where our nation's continued existence as the "United" States of America was determined in a most dramatic way. As scenes of so much violence and death, they should stand forever now as dedicated places of peace, both to honor those who died and to encourage reflection about what we can learn from our past.*

*The Civil War was a harrowing time for America. Our country was ripped in two by a disagreement so passionate that it led to massive death and destruction. Battle sites were covered with blood and blanketed by bodies. Each life taken had a story, whether it was that of a professional soldier or, more likely, that of a civilian who enlisted because of principle or was drafted and torn away from loved ones. These men and the course of their lives, what was lost and what was won, deserve to be remembered by preserving the hallowed grounds where they fell.*

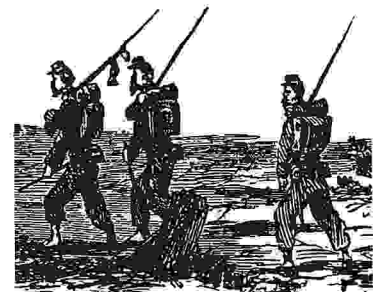
*Preserving our Civil War battlefields not only commemorates the soldiers who died there, but also reminds us how their fates determined our country's future. Those sites where war once took place should remain solemn spaces where we can go to learn, share, remember, and think about who we are, where we came from, and what we are capable of as people. In standing as the past, they can uniquely educate the future.*

Julia seems to have given us ample reason to support the Education Fund effort. This year's slogan is "History Happened Here: Stop Destroying Our Battlefields!" Need more information about the slogan and contest? Write: APCWS Education Services, 11 Public Square, Suite

200, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740. Phone: 301-665-1400.

Illinois has 392 Civil War flags, one of the largest collections in the United States. These are regimental battle flags which were turned in to the State according to a War Department order of June 13, 1865, as well as national colors, guidons, flank markers, and captured Confederate flags. The problem is that there has been no effort at a controlled environment or proper textile conservation since the flags were cleaned and stored in 1923. Civil War flags were made of a natural product, silk, and were then painted with oil-based paints. With weather, battle, and age the silk has become brittle and is literally "turning to dust."

The Champaign County Civil War Round Table is leading an effort to do whatever can still be done to remedy this problem and they are looking for support from the other Round Tables of Illinois. These flags represent an important part of our Illinois heritage ... and it behooves the Civil War Round Table of Chicago to join in the effort. ☆



CHARLES P. ROLAND (from page 1)

Among the many books he has written are *The Confederacy* (1960), *Albert Sidney Johnston: Soldier of Three Republics* (1964), *The Improbable Era: The South Since World War II* (1975), *An American Iliad: The Story of the Civil War* (1991), and *Reflections on Lee: A Historian's Assessment* (1995). The long list of honors bestowed on Dr. Roland includes the University of Kentucky Research Foundation Award for excellence in research (1977) and the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service from the Secretary of the Army (1992). He has been president of both the Louisiana Historical Society and the Southern Historical Association.

## OCTOBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

Dr. David Herbert Donald was honored with the twenty-sixth annual Nevins-Freeman Award of The Civil War Round Table on October 8. The renowned Lincoln and Civil War scholar and Pulitzer Prize-winning author addressed 121 members and guests at the 584th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. His acceptance address, "A Close, Warm, and Sincere Friendship: Abraham Lincoln and Orville H. Browning," was based on research Dr. Donald has done for his upcoming book, *Lincoln's Men: A Meditation on Friendship*, scheduled to be published in two years.

Abraham Lincoln and Orville Browning were opposites in many ways. The two men met in the 1830s when they both served in the Illinois state legislature. Lincoln, of humble origin, was rough-hewn while Browning was urbane and sophisticated. Browning dressed in a stylish manner and Lincoln's appearance was sometimes unkempt, his hair unruly. However, they also had much in common. They

were attorneys who were born in Kentucky; both were Whigs, then Republicans, who from early days opposed slavery and the extension of slavery into the territories.

In the 1840s Lincoln, Browning, and their families stayed in touch. Donald stressed, "Lincoln and Browning were never intimate friends, but Browning was one of the few people that the Lincolns invited for dinner at their Springfield home." Though not close friends, the relationship of Lincoln and Browning became a valued one for Lincoln when he was elected to the presidency in 1860.

Arriving in Washington, D.C. in 1861, Lincoln lacked a peer with whom he could speak freely. His cabinet members were virtually strangers to Lincoln and he knew only a few members of Congress. Orville Browning arrived in July 1861 a U.S. senator from Illinois, filling the seat

of the late Stephen A. Douglas. Their previous twenty-three years of association meant something to Lincoln and the two men often met privately to discuss the enormous issues of the day. To his credit, Browning never leaked information from these confidential discussions.

Concerned about Lincoln's health, Browning told his friend that he was overworked and was especially critical of the time the President spent with the constant throngs of office seekers. The two men took carriage rides and both Orville and Eliza Browning were frequent guests at the

White House. The couple stayed with the Lincolns during eleven-year old Willie Lincoln's fatal illness in 1862. Browning was the only non-family member to attend Willie's interment.

The issue which influenced the disintegration of the friendship was Lincoln's unwillingness to appoint Browning to the Supreme Court—an appointment Browning desperately desired. Lincoln had three

Court vacancies to fill, and he passed over Browning each time. Though he had support from fellow senators, Browning suffered from strong Republican opposition in Illinois because of his vacillation on the issues of emancipation and confiscation of Southern property.

According to Donald, Browning had no conviction or commitment concerning slavery. "Lincoln was astonished that Browning changed his mind so often on emancipation and confiscation," he explained. "I speculated that Lincoln was influenced by the reluctant conclusion that Browning lacked the proper judicial temperament to be a good Supreme Court justice." Whatever Lincoln's reasons were for not naming Browning to the Court, his decision severely strained the friendship.

The relationship cooled further during Browning's 1862 senatorial campaign. After Lincoln issued the Emancipation

Proclamation on September 22, 1862, followed by a suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, Browning abandoned all speeches in a silent protest. He told a group of Quincy citizens that they should "vote for the best party" to indicate a strong disagreement with Lincoln on emancipation.

Although the friendship with Lincoln suffered, Browning did not sever his ties with him completely and made perfunctory visits to the White House. In 1864 Browning was sympathetic to the possibility of the election of former Union General George McClellan. However, when the President was assassinated in 1865, Browning was devastated. Once again he indicated that he had cherished his relationship with his friend Abraham Lincoln.

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### "LOOKING FOR LINCOLN" IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

The Round Table's "Looking for Lincoln" tour, which left in search of the Great Emancipator on Friday, October 22 and returned on Sunday evening, October 24, was a great success! Legacies of Mr. Lincoln, his family members, and his colleagues were located and studied in such Illinois places as Mt. Pulaski, Lincoln, Springfield, New Salem, and Bloomington. Tour Chairman Brooks Davis did an excellent job in planning an interesting and unusual educational experience. Mentioned here are just a few highlights.

After we viewed some of the wonderful exhibits at the Lincoln College Museum, Cullom Davis, director of the Lincoln Legal Papers Project, gave us a preview of his upcoming Round Table address in December. The next day, State Historian Thomas F. Schwartz showed us precious historic items from the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection that are not on general display—items such as an original copy of the Gettysburg Address, the Lincoln Family Album, Mary Lincoln's diamond ring, and many more. Also of note: Treasurer Ted Birndorf twice risked his life to provide nourishment for tour participants; President Bednar and Chairman Davis presented him with a special award for this feat at the Saturday night dinner.

On Saturday morning we attended a conference of Illinois Round Tables at the Illinois State Capitol. A report on that meeting will be included in the December issue of this newsletter.



## THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Burlingame, Michael, ed. *A Reporter's Lincoln* by Walter B. Stevens. U. of Nebraska Press. 1999. Pbk. \$24.95.
- Burlingame, Michael, ed. *Lincoln Observed: Civil War Dispatches of Noah Brooks*. Johns Hopkins U. Press. 1998. \$25.95.
- Burlingame, Michael, ed. *Lincoln's Journalist: John Hay's Anonymous Writings for the Press, 1860-1864*. S. Illinois U. Press. 1999. \$35.00.
- Burton, Matthew W. *The River of Blood and the Valley of Death—The Lives of Robert Selden Garnett and Richard Brooke Garnett, C.S.A.—Two Cousins for the Cause*. The General's Books. 1998. \$21.95.
- Burton, William L. *Melting Pot Soldiers: The Union's Ethnic Regiments*. Fordham U. Press. 1998. Pbk. \$19.95.
- Campbell, R. Thomas. *Academy on the James: The Confederate Naval School*. Burd Street Press. 1999. \$39.95.
- Carpenter, Francis R. *The Inner Life of Abraham Lincoln: Six Months at the White House*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1995. Pbk. \$14.00. Original of 1866.
- Carr, Dawson. *Gray Phantoms of the Cape Fear—Running the Civil War Blockade*. John W. Blair. 1998. Pbk. \$14.95.
- Castel, Albert and Thomas Goodrich. *Bloody Bill Anderson: The Short, Savage Life of a Civil War Guerrilla*. Stackpole Books. 1999. \$24.95.
- Cockrell, Monroe F., ed. *Gunner with Stonewall: Reminiscences of William Thomas Poague*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1999. Pbk. \$12.00. Original of 1957.
- Coffey, David. *John Bell Hood and the Struggle for Atlanta*. McWhiney Foundation Press. 1998. Pbk. \$12.95.
- Connelly, Thomas L. and Archer Jones. *The Politics of Command: Factions and Ideas in Confederate Strategy*. LSU Press. 1998. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1973.
- Coombe, Jack D. *Thunder Along the Mississippi—The River Battles that Split the Confederacy*. Bantam Books. 1998. Pbk. \$12.95.
- Cozzens, Peter and Robert I. Girardi, eds. *The Military Memoirs of General John Pope*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1998. \$34.95.

### 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.

### 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.

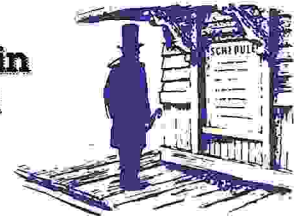
## NEWS

Many thanks go to the following volunteers who staffed our show booth at the Wheaton Civil War Show on September 18 and at the Symposium on Civil War Medicine at the Chicago Historical Society on September 25: Bruce Allardice, Roger Bohn, Robert Carlson, Ron Carlson, Robert Dawson, Robert Girardi, Jerry Kowalski, David Matthews, Steven Stewart, and Jackie Wilson.

*The Dispatch*, the newsletter of The Civil War Round Table of New York, reports that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch at Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn will be restored soon. The arch is 107 years old and one of the largest Civil War monuments in the country.

The monthly luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table will be held on Monday, November 29. Marshall Krolick and Frank Patton will discuss "Phil Sheridan Becomes a National Hero." A reception begins at 11:30; 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.

- 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

- Bernadell Armour, 934 S. Lake Drive, DuQuoin, IL 62832, 618-542-4826
- Lorne Gorelick, 923 S. Carpenter #2R, Chicago, IL 60607, 312-243-2511
- Mercedes Graf, 1711 Sylvan Court, Flossmoor, IL 60422, 708-534-4974
- William H. Kahl, 1401 N. Street NW #702, Washington, DC 20005-4816, 202-265-0122
- Gail Stephens, 364 Sheffield Road, Severna Park, MD 21146, 410-544-3041

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.