

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LX, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 1999



## 584th REGULAR MEETING



**CULLOM DAVIS ON  
"FROM COURT HOUSE TO WHITE  
HOUSE: THE LAW PRACTICE OF  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN"**



**Friday, December 10**



**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:  
Roast Pork Loin with  
Dijon Mustard  
Demi-glaze  
or Catch of the Day*



### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, December 6**, 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.**

## CULLOM DAVIS

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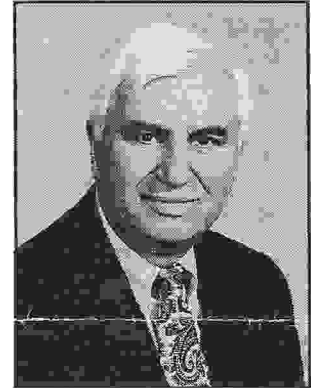
### "From Court House to White House: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln"

#### SIX YEARS' RESEARCH

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

*The Lincoln Legal Papers* project, an ambitious undertaking begun in 1988, has sought to locate all the documents pertaining to Abraham Lincoln's legal career (1836-1861). Based in offices in the Old State Capitol in Springfield, the project's major sponsors are the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, the Abraham Lincoln Association, and the Center for Legal Studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Cullom Davis, director and senior editor of the *Lincoln Legal Papers*, will address The Round Table on December 10. His topic will be "From Court House to White House: The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln."

*Lincoln Legal Papers* researchers spent six years searching 140 libraries, archives, and court houses for surviving records from Abraham Lincoln's quarter-century career as a lawyer, and another five years preparing these documents for publication. That massive effort culminates in January with the publication of *The Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln: Complete Documentary Edition*. This long-awaited electronic compilation will enable scholars, students, and admirers to readily retrieve facts and document images for over 5,000 cases and legal transactions undertaken by Lincoln and his three successive partners.



Cullom Davis

With numerous reference aids, a comprehensive index and custom-designed user software, this work will make it possible, finally, to understand and assess the occupation that consumed much more of Lincoln's time than politics or public service. A companion four-volume book edition of carefully selected cases and document transcriptions is scheduled for release in 2005.

Preliminary examination of these records has already begun to reshape our understanding of Lincoln's Illinois years. The next big step will be for historians and biographers to gauge how—or whether—Lincoln's legal career influenced his con-

duct as president and commander-in-chief during the Civil War. In his presentation, Dr. Davis will offer some provisional observations on these tantalizing questions: What emotional, social, rhetorical, oratorical, legal, and political lessons and habits did Lincoln derive from his courtroom experiences? What evidence can we detect from the Civil War years that law was the stepping stone to his greatness?

Cullom Davis, Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Illinois at Springfield, has been director and senior

*(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 REPORT

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

Kernstown will receive LWCF support for land acquisition: The November 1999 edition of *Civil War News* indicates that the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Commission will receive \$350,000 in federal monies (from the Land and Water Conservation Fund) to help buy acreage in the center of the Kernstown (Virginia) battlefield. The \$350,000 is part of a total of \$8 million in LWCF financing committed by Congress earlier this year for Civil War site preservation. See the March 1999 issue of this newsletter for details on the LWCF preservation program. Applying for the federal funding was a collaborative effort that involved the city of Winchester, Frederick County, and the grass-roots Kernstown Battlefield Association (KBA), with the Shenandoah Valley commission in the vanguard.

Along with existing funding, the \$350,000 is intended to underwrite the KBA's effort to purchase 315 acres of the (Charles Hardy) Grim Farm, which was known as the Pritchard Farm during the Civil War era; the site figured prominently in the battles of both First and Second Kernstown. The local group currently is negotiating with the Middleburg Bank (as trustee of the Grim Farm estate) to acquire this property in the heart of the battlefield. According to KBA president Larry Duncan, the two sides "still have a ways to go," but the commitment of LWCF dollars provides area preservationists with the substantive funds and realistic chance they need to complete the transaction successfully.

On the downside, threatened construction of a large church compound on almost thirty acres of the Kernstown battlefield continues. Winchester officials have tried to discourage such construction, but the city has no power to prevent the First Assembly of God from building on battlefield acreage that the church probably will buy from the Middleburg Bank. Among other problems, locating the complex on the battlefield raises the specter of a 3,000-foot sewer line across the site—complete with manhole covers and the cutting and backfilling of the land that excavation for the line will necessitate.

Congress considers measure to expand Shiloh Park: The most recent issue of *Civil War News* also reports the introduction and consideration by congressional committee of a bill to enlarge Shiloh (Tennessee) National Military Park by adding a unit at Corinth, Mississippi. (Union victory at Corinth in

October 1862 held off a Confederate invasion of western Tennessee, among other things influencing Braxton Bragg's abandonment of his admittedly less-than-stellar effort at winning Kentucky for the Confederacy that fall.) The Corinth legislation, which has bipartisan sponsorship, was introduced earlier this year by Sen. Trent Lott (R-Mississippi) and Rep. Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi). The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported favorably on it in September, while it awaits comment from the House Committee on Resources and the Interior Department.

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, established by Congress in 1990, designated Corinth a "Priority I, Class B" battlefield. The Class B ranking means that the battle in question was one of "direct and decisive influence"; Priority I refers to the urgency of the preservation situation at the site, specifically indicating a "critical need for coordinated nationwide action by the year 2000." In its 1993 report on the status of America's Civil War battlefields, the commission stated that the "strategic character and national significance" of Class A and B sites qualified them for collective preservation efforts at the national, state, and local levels—with participation by both public and private sectors. Along those lines, the legislation now under consideration calls for collaboration by the Interior Dept./National Park Service, the states of Tennessee and Mississippi, the city of Corinth, and additional public and private groups.



It was announced in November that the two largest Civil War preservation associations in the country are joining forces. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) and The Civil War Trust are merging into one organization to better save our battlefields and serve the purpose of historic preservation. The new organization's name is The Civil War Preservation Trust; its chairman designate is Carrington Williams. It now has 40,000 members.

## NOVEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

"An Antebellum Southerner Defends Slavery" was the topic of noted historian Dr. Charles P. Roland on November 12, when he addressed 114 members and guests at the regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Dr. Roland, the author of several acclaimed books on Civil War history, is currently Alumni Professor of History at the University of Kentucky. The Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table, at its Executive Committee meeting last summer, voted to award our next Nevins-Freeman Award, in October 2000, to Dr. Roland. Thus we are fortunate to have another opportunity to hear a presentation by Dr. Roland next fall.

In his presentation last month, he took on the difficult task of defending slavery from the vantage of an antebellum plantation owner. The speech reflected the opinions and attitudes of many white southerners before the Civil War.

At the outset Roland made it clear that he was not an advocate of slavery or secession, but that he was presenting the defense of slavery in the form of an imaginary letter from a Louisiana graduate of the College of New Jersey (now Princeton University) to his former classmate in Illinois. The writer of the letter viewed himself as a political moderate who, in 1860, voted for John Bell, presidential candidate of the Constitutional Union Party. The letter was dated January 20, 1861, a few days before Louisiana voted for secession. Dangerous fanatics on both sides were blamed for the crisis facing the country.

Slavery, according to the Louisianian, was part of American history since 1619 when a Dutch ship brought twenty black indentured servants to Jamestown, Virginia. The Africans proved to be good workers in the hot, humid climate and chattel slavery became accepted by the 1600s, especially due to a shortage of white laborers. By the 1770s, all thirteen colonies used slaves to some extent. In the North, slavery developed at the margins of the economy. However, in the South, large holdings of tobacco, rice, sugar, and cotton seemed to require a labor-intensive plantation system and vast numbers of slaves.

Some northern resentment of slavery occurred with the sense of freedom expressed during the American Revolution (1775-1783). By 1805, the seven northernmost states had abolished slavery, mainly because slavery was not essential to the Yankee economy. In 1793, Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin which caused fifty times the amount of cotton to be cultivated, and the South now re-

ally depended on King Cotton. More acres of cotton needed to be planted, and thus more slaves were needed. The cycle kept repeating.

Plantation owners went further into debt to produce more cotton, land, and slaves. A vast dependence on slave labor occurred in the South. If anything would damage the southern cotton and slave economy, the northern textile and shipping industries, and the entire world economy would suffer. As one southern plantation owner worried, "The world had better not make a war on slavery!"

Three-fourths of southerners owned no slaves. Roland then asked a key question: "Would southern white non-slaveholders fight to perpetuate slavery?" He answered positively. "Most southerners were independent non-slaveholders who felt no direct competition from slaves," he explained. "All southern whites thought that slavery provided a means of policing the vast African population and that a majority of slaves were incapable of continuing civilization."

Immigrants and wage laborers in the North were often treated much worse than slaves were in the south. Slaves who were too old or too ill were often not expected to work. On some plantations an old-age security system prevailed for slaves. Their spiritual-well being was supposedly taken care of by slave ministers and some churches. But some slaves were whipped and flogging, sometimes for just causes, did occur.

One southern writer claimed that slavery was a positive good, that Greek and Roman societies thrived on slavery. South Carolina's John C. Calhoun developed the doctrines of nullification and secession because a minority of the country's population—that in the South—perceived itself as being pushed around and discriminated against. The states had the right to secede if an oppressive majority abused the minority. The moral position of abolitionists had hardened southern determination to protect slavery—at all risks and costs. The die had been cast. As New York's William Seward had warned, the crisis over slavery and states' rights had indeed created an "irrepressible conflict."

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The first American Civil War Round Table in the country of Israel has been formed. The Maale Adumim CWRT, is located in Maale Adumim, a city of 22,000 just to the east of Jerusalem. It's president, Seth Vogelmann, can be reached via e-mail at: [seth\\_v@netvision.net.il](mailto:seth_v@netvision.net.il)

## Free Tickets!

Free tickets for an advance screening of a new Civil War movie are being offered to Civil War Round Table of Chicago members by the film's public relations firm. Acclaimed director Ang Lee's "Ride the Devil," based on *Woe to Live On*, by Daniel Woodrell, is about bushwhackers along the Kansas/Missouri border in 1862, and stars Tobey Maguire, Skeet Ulrich, and Jewel. It opens in Chicago on December 17 at theaters at Piper's Alley and at Old Orchard Mall. Two advance screenings will be held: Monday, December 13, at Old Orchard at 7:30 p.m. and Thursday, December 16, at Piper's Alley. Thirty free tickets (one ticket admits two people) are available for each screening. The tickets will be at the registration table at the December 10 meeting and will be distributed "first come, first served." There are no advance orders. You must be present to claim a ticket.

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Thanks to the 10th Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry reactivated unit for taking part in our Veterans' Day commemoration at the beginning of the November meeting. Regiment members who participated were Bill Dalby, Private Bratz, and Ed Bunting.

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**CULLOM DAVIS** (continued from page 1)  
editor of the *Lincoln Legal Papers* since 1988. A graduate of Princeton University, he earned a Ph.D. in American History at the University of Illinois. Before coming to Springfield, he taught at Indiana University, and also has held visiting appointments at Arizona State University, Wayne State University, and the University of the West Indies. His books include *Oral History: From Tape to Type* (1977), *The Public and Private Lincoln* (1979), and *The Prairie Bondman* (1996).

For his service to Lincoln scholarship, Davis was awarded an honorary doctorate in history by Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, and the Lincoln Diploma of Honor by Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. He gave the first of a series of Ralph G. Newman Lectures at Lincoln College last month. A board member of many professional and learned societies, he has served as president of the Abraham Lincoln Association, the Illinois Humanities Council, the Oral History Association, and the Association for Documentary Editing.

## THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Crowson, Noel and John Brogden, eds. *Bloody Banners and Barefoot Boys—A History of the 27th Regiment Alabama Infantry*. Burd Street Press. 1997. \$19.95.

Davis, Robert S., Jr. *Cotton, Fire and Dreams: The Robert Findlay Iron Works and Heavy Industry in Macon, Georgia, 1839-1912*. Mercer U. Press. 1998. \$29.95.

Davis, William C., Brian C. Pohanka and Don Troiani. *Civil War Journal: The Legacies*. Rutledge Hill Press. 1999. \$29.95.

Davis, William C. *Lincoln's Men: How President Lincoln Became Father to an Army and a Nation*. The Free Press. 1999. \$25.00.

DeKay, James T. *Monitor: The Story of the Legendary Civil War Ironclad and the Man Whose Invention Changed the Course of History*. Walker and Co. 1997. \$21.00.

Dyer, Thomas G. *Secret Yankees—The Union Circle in Confederate Atlanta*. Johns Hopkins U. Press. 1999. \$29.95.

Eby, Cecil D., Jr., ed. *A Virginia Yankee in the Civil War: The Diaries of David Hunter Strother*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1998. Pbk. \$15.98. Original of 1961.

Edrington, Thomas and John Taylor. *The Battle of Glorietta Pass*. U. of New Mexico Press. 1998. \$29.95.

Eicher, David J. *Mystic Chords of Memory: Civil War Battlefields and Historic Sites Recaptured*. LSU Press. 1998. \$39.95.

Elliott, Sam D. *Soldier of Tennessee—General Alexander P. Stewart and the Civil War in the West*. LSU Press. 1999. \$34.95.

Pfetzner, Dale, Jr. and Bruce E. Mowday. *Unlikely Allies—Fort Delaware's Prison Community in the Civil War*. Stackpole Books. 1998. \$29.95.

The Union League Club Civil War Round Table will hold its second annual Ralph G. Newman Christmas Party at its regular monthly luncheon meeting on Monday, December 27. A special program is being planned by Marshall Krolick and Frank Patton. 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.

### 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.



Former President Marshall Krolick addressed the Atlanta Civil War Round Table on October 12. His topic was "Council of War: Meade and His Generals, July 2, 1863."

Trustee Jerome Kowalski, portraying Union Major General George H. Thomas, participated in the ceremony dedicating the Lincoln National Cemetery near Joliet on October 3. He also gave the keynote address at the reburial of Private Michael Keegan at Fort Sheridan on November 11. Keegan served in the Civil War and in the Indian Campaigns.

Former President Carole Cierniak was named to the second team of the 1999 All-USA Teachers Team by *USA Today*. She was featured in an article that appeared in *USA Today* several weeks ago.

Two longtime Round Table members, Margaret April and Hugh McAniff, have been ill and would appreciate cards or letters. Send mail to Margaret at 504 West Wellington, Chicago, Illinois 60657, and to Hugh at the Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Room 340, 800 Biesterfield Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007. Both are Honorary Life members of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Margaret is 88 and Hugh is 96.

## 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.

*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

Donna Bough, 4 Bedford Court, Hawthorn Woods, IL 60047, 847-726-8155

Patrick O'Leary, 115 N. Madison Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521, 630-789-8999

Abby Swendlin, 3917 Beaver Run Drive, Long Grove, IL 60047, 847-726-8134

Founder Elmer Gertz has been chosen to receive the prestigious Lincoln the Lawyer Award of the Abraham Lincoln Association at the association's annual banquet in Springfield on February 12. The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals who reflect the ideals and character of Abraham Lincoln in their legal careers.

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. At the January Executive Committee meeting, a 60th Anniversary Committee was 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.