

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.



Volume LX, Number 6

Chicago, Illinois

February 2000



## 588th REGULAR MEETING



### THOMAS CARTWRIGHT ON "THE TENNESSEE CAMPAIGN OF 1864"



Friday, February 11



HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$25 - Members    \$30 - Nonmembers

#### Entrees:

London Broil  
or Catch of the Day



#### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, February 7**, 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.**

## THOMAS CARTWRIGHT

~ on ~

### "The Tennessee Campaign of 1864"

#### DEATH OF AN ARMY

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

AROUND 4 o'clock in the afternoon of November 30, 1864, the gallant Confederate Army of Tennessee marched down the slopes of Winstead Hill and into immortality at Franklin, Tennessee. In five hours, six generals were killed or mortally wounded, eight were wounded, and one was wounded and captured. The battle has been called "The Confederacy's Last Hurrah," "Five Tragic Hours," "Pickett's Charge of the West," and "The Bloodiest hours of the Civil War." It was all of this and the death of an army.

The seeds for this destruction were sown with the escape of the Federal army the day before at Spring Hill. Union General John M. Schofield had been fooled by Confederate General John B. Hood's eastward flank march from Columbia. The Federal army was separated by fifteen miles, with a portion at Spring Hill and the rest at Columbia. After a sharp fight during the afternoon of November 29, Schofield moved two-thirds of his army to Spring Hill. By morning the Federals had escaped to Franklin.

How they marched past the Confederate army during the night has been one of the great debates of the war. There is no question that Hood's rage over the escape



Thomas Cartwright

of the enemy affected his decision the next day to attack over two miles of open field against three lines of earthworks, which were bristling with artillery. The Army of Tennessee moved on to Nashville, where it was totally defeated; but many feel that the end really occurred at Franklin. Sam Watkins would later write of Franklin that the "Death angel gathered its last Harvest ... would that I could turn the page but the page would still be there with its scenes of horror and blood...." Thomas Cartwright will address The Round Table on February

11; his presentation will be about "The Tennessee Campaign of 1864," and he will give special emphasis to Spring Hill and the Battle of Franklin.

Thomas Cartwright has been employed at the Carter House in Franklin, Tennessee, for eleven years. For eight years he held the position of military curator and presently serves as director. He has appeared on several episodes of the television series, "Civil War Journal," as well as on the History Channel's two-hour program, "The Irish in America," and has written various articles for magazines, periodicals, and books. Cartwright is currently working on a book to be titled *Letters, Diaries, and Personal Reminiscences of the Army of Tennessee*.



## 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

### GETTYSBURG GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN IS APPROVED

In late November 1999, NPS Northeast Regional Director Marie Rust announced that she had endorsed and signed a Record of Decision on a General Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (GMP/EIS) for Gettysburg National Military Park; the GMP/EIS was two years in the making prior to release of a final document last June. Four options for preserving and managing the battlefield were outlined in that document, among them the controversial proposal favored by National Park Service officials and eventually approved by Rust. Though not the sole cause of controversy, the proposal's \$39-million visitor center/museum complex has generated the most dissension—mainly because of its suggested siting on untouched battlefield land and also the involvement in the project of private developer Robert Kinsley (Kinsley Equities) of York, Pennsylvania.

The chosen alternative calls for demolition and removal of the current Visitor and Cyclorama Centers, both intrusively located in the Ziegler's Grove area that is critical to understanding and interpreting Pickett's Charge. The site will be restored to its 1863 appearance, as will other battlefield features (natural and man-made) that affected major movements of the armies and those of individual units and troops. One such feature is the Codori-Trostle Thicket, located midway between the Emmitsburg Road and Cemetery Ridge and scene of significant action on the battle's last two days. A grant from the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg permitted NPS personnel to jump start the research phase of this project, with actual work to rehabilitate the site beginning this spring.

The proposed location of the new visitor center is a site west of the of Baltimore Pike and south of Hunt Avenue and the National Cemetery. While this site at the right of the Union line and far left of the Confederate line saw some skirmishing, it was mainly a staging area for the Union V and VI Corps and is not considered a "Major Battle Action Area." Upon analysis of landscape evolution at Gettysburg through available documentation, NPS historians coined the term "Major Battle Action Area" as they outlined three key park resource areas, each of which holds cultural resources/attributes related to the park's nationally significant landscapes: 1.) the battlefield itself; 2.) Soldiers' National Cemetery; and 3.) the memorial net-

work of roads and monuments built by Civil War veterans and the War Department from the late 1890s through the late 1920s. "Major Battle Action Area" encompasses the places inside park borders where principal combat engagements that were crucial to the battle action occurred; the phrase also designates the battlefield features that were pivotal the outcome of those engagements. The acreage earmarked for the new visitor facilities was so chosen because it is not within the "Major Battle Action Area," yet it is near sites significant to the second- and third-days' fighting and is accessible to visitors from two important road corridors.

The visitor center complex will be funded through a public-private partnership between the National Park Service and Robert Kinsley's non-profit organization, the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation. The earliest proposal from Kinsley (the winner out of six bids submitted to NPS for the project) drew objections during a public review/comment period for numerous reasons, including what some saw as an excessive level of "for-profit" commercialism in the complex as well as concern about its impact on the historic landscape. The review

process resulted in modifications to the originally proposed facilities and project objectives, including the elimination of most of the for-profit commercial users in the visitor center facilities.

There has been more than enough overblown rhetoric, grandstanding, and namecalling associated with this issue. The public-private collaboration at the heart of Gettysburg project reflects the federal government's current inclination regarding the nature of its financial involvement in such enterprises—the guiding concept here being minimal federal funding. Such collaboration is a key feature of the "American Battlefield Protection Program" instituted by Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan in 1990, as Americans in the public and private sectors looked for proactive ways to save our endangered battlefields in the aftermath of the "third battle of Manassas" during the late 1980s.

With the Record of Decision now approved and signed, the National Park Service can begin executing the chosen alternative. Information on the Gettysburg National Military Park GMP/EIS is available on the worldwide web at [www.nps.gov/gett](http://www.nps.gov/gett), or by phoning Gettysburg's Public Affairs Office at 717-334-1124, extension 452. Copies of the plan may be requested from the Office of the Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.





## JANUARY MEETING

BY ROGER E. BOHN

"The Battle of Monocacy: The Battle to Save Washington" was the topic of Cathy S. Beeler's presentation on January 14, when she addressed 98 members and guests at the 587th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Beeler has been at the Monocacy National Battlefield since the opening of the facility in 1991 and is now chief of resource education and visitor services.

From Richmond, Virginia, there was a letter dated June 4, 1864, to "Dear Mattie" from a soldier named "George" in the 12th Georgia Battalion, in which he asked her to marry him. His letters continued with descriptions of army camp life, and what it was like to see his comrades killed in action. On the long march into Maryland, on July 9, 1864, he was wounded near the Monocacy River. George died on July 12, and was buried in Frederick, Maryland. He had made the same supreme sacrifice that men had at Shiloh, Antietam, and Gettysburg.

The "little battle of Monocacy" was a very important one, considering that the Confederacy, in the summer of 1864, was being driven back from Richmond to Petersburg where entrenchment for a long siege had begun. Lincoln was coming up for election and wanted the war to close as quickly as possible, and so he selected U.S. Grant to head this drive toward victory. The first thing Grant did was to virtually strip the fifty-three forts from around Washington, D.C., to give him the additional manpower he needed. Grant assured Lincoln that only 36 hours would be needed to rush troops from City Point to Washington in case of an emergency.

It was also important for the Confederacy to keep the road open to the Shenandoah Valley, an essential source of supplies. After the losses at Lexington, Virginia, Jubal Early and 20,000 men were sent to clean the Union troops out of the Shenandoah, and then to attack Washington, D.C., from the north. Early's forces comprised fully one-third of Lee's army, and they were expected to draw Union troops away from pressing Lee's position at Petersburg.

At this point, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad owner John W. Garrett was demanding that Union forces under Lew Wallace be sent to Frederick, Maryland, to protect his essential railroad from Confederate incursion. Grant ordered that Wallace stay in Baltimore in order to protect the capital, and on July 4, the 8th Illinois Cavalry was sent to help in that defense. Wallace did, on his own, go to the Monocacy area, and on July 7 and 8, there was considerable action near the city of Frederick. Wallace then established his troops' position near Manassas Junction and was reinforced by

Ricketts' division of seasoned veterans, bringing the total Union strength to 5800 men.

On July 9, Early expected to push past Frederick and go on the sixty miles into Washington without much opposition. He fully expected to capture the capital and install the Confederacy "in old Abe's chair." Beeler noted that a ransom was paid by the city of Frederick in order to avoid destruction. The immediate Confederate goal was the Georgetown Pike, the main road into Washington.

Beeler described some of the personal dramas involving the local families caught up in the action as the heavy fighting went on in wheat fields and cornfields. Especially interesting were the experiences of a young boy, Glen

Worthington, and his remembrances of the battle in his later years. It was also noted that two Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded in this action for bravery under fire and for the recapturing of a fallen battle flag.

The vastly outnumbered Union forces then withdrew toward Baltimore

after massive attacks by the Confederates under John B. Gordon. By July 11, Wallace's force was back in Baltimore. The battle-weary Confederates then took time to recover from the days of marching and fighting to care for their wounded and to bury their dead. The battle along the banks of the Monocacy River had taken one whole day. After regrouping, Early's men were finally ready to resume the march to Washington. They reached 7th Street Road in the north of Washington on July 11. In the meantime, Grant had hurried troops up from City Point to aid in the defense against Early's expected assault.

On July 12, Early fired upon Fort Stevens, in the northern outskirts of Washington, D.C., near the Soldiers Home where Lincoln and his family were staying. Because communications were often disrupted, Lincoln went himself to view the action from a parapet at Fort Stevens. Tall Lincoln, wearing a tall stove-pipe hat, made an inviting target for a Rebel sharpshooter, but he missed. Beeler said that we will never know if Oliver W. Holmes really did say "get down, you damn' fool . . . you could have been killed."

The "little battle of Monocacy" had managed to buy *one vital day of time* . . . and that one day might well be said to have saved the northern capital. Monocacy Battlefield Park was not opened until 1991, and we will be able to explore the newest facilities during our *CWRT Tour 51* to Antietam in 2001. ★



Former President Brooks Davis will address a joint meeting of the American Bicentennial and Lake Defiance chapters of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Fort Dearborn chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on February 5 at the Glenview Park Golf Club. His topic will be "Abraham Lincoln, Man of Faith."

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The second in a series of Ralph G. Newman Lectures will be given at Lincoln College, in Lincoln, Illinois, at 7:00 p.m. on March 7. Dr. Cullom Davis will speak on "Now He Belongs to the Sages: Abraham Lincoln and American Popular Culture."

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Former President Brooks Davis will speak to the regular monthly luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Monday, February 28, on "Abraham Lincoln, Man of Faith." A reception begins at 11:30; lunch is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

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The First Annual Gettysburg National Military Park Women's History Symposium will be held at the Gettysburg Cyclorama on March 10-12, 2000. "Sense & Sensibility: Women in the 19th Century America Respond to a National Crisis" is a three-day symposium featuring living history programs, lectures, and guided walking tours of the town of Gettysburg, with a focus on Victorian women and their response to the Civil War. For information, call 717-334-1124, extension 432, or address e-mail to [cwbkworm@pipeline.com](mailto:cwbkworm@pipeline.com).

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A conference with the theme, "Recognizing the Efforts of Women, 1861-1865" will be held in Winchester, Virginia, on April 7-9. The format includes speaker presentations, workshops, exhibits, and other activities. For information, call 301-293-2820 (from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., EST) or direct e-mail to [roslin@nfs.com](mailto:roslin@nfs.com).

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Many thanks to Ralph and Marcia De Falco and Dan Weinberg for their generous donations of books for our monthly book raffle! Proceeds from the raffle go to support battlefield preservation efforts.

## THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Hollandsworth, James G., Jr. *The Louisiana Native Guards—The Black Military Experience During the Civil War*. LSU Press. 1998. Pbk. \$12.95.
- Holzer, Harold, ed. *The Lincoln Mailbag: America Writes to the President, 1861-1865*. S. Illinois U. Press. 1998. \$29.95.
- Hudson, Leonne M. *The Odyssey of a Southerner: The Life and Times of Gustavus Woodson Smity*. Mercer U. Press. 1998. \$32.00.
- Imhof, John. *Gettysburg, Day Two: A Study in Maps*. Butternut and Blue. 1999. \$45.00.
- Jaquette, Henrietta S., ed. *Letters of a Civil War Nurse: Cornelia Hancock, 1863-1865*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1998. Pbk. \$9.95. Original of 1937.
- Johansson, M. Jane. *Peculiar Honor: A History of the 28th Texas Cavalry, 1862-1865*. U. of Arkansas Press. 1998. Pbk. \$20.00.
- Jones, Eugene W., Jr. *Enlisted for the War: The Struggles of the Gallant 24th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, Infantry, 1861-1865*. Longstreet House. 1997. \$40.00.
- Katcher, Philip. *Building the Victory: The Order Book of the Volunteer Engineer Brigade, Army of the Potomac*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1998. \$24.95.
- Keating, Albert. *Carnival of Blood—The Civil War Ordeal of the Seventh New York Heavy Artillery*. Butternut and Blue. 1998. \$40.00.
- Kowalis, Jeffrey J. and Loree L. *Died at Gettysburg*. Longstreet House. 1998. \$30.00.
- Longacre, Edward G. *Lincoln's Cavalrymen—A History of the Mounted Forces of the Army of the Potomac*. Stackpole Books. 1998. \$29.95.
- Lonn, Ella. *Desertion During the Civil War*. U. of Nebraska Press. Pbk. \$12.00. Original of 1928.
- Maier, Larry B. *Rough & Regular: A History of Philadelphia's 119th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, the Gray Reserves*. Burd Street Press. 1999. \$30.00.
- McPherson, James M. and William J. Cooper, Jr., eds. *Writing the Civil War—The Quest to Understand*. U. of South Carolina Press. 1998. \$29.95.

### 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

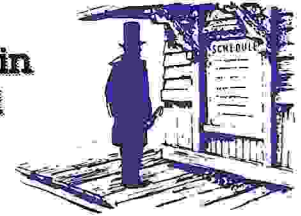
A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by late Round Table founding member Ralph G. Newman. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum rise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the last highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds go to benefit battlefield preservation.

Founding member Elmer Gertz recently underwent heart surgery and is recuperating at St. Joseph Hospital. Send cards and letters to the hospital (2900 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60657) or to Elmer's home (2960 North Lake Shore Drive, #1402, Chicago, Illinois 60657). We all wish Elmer a speedy and complete recovery!

President Charles Bednar has announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago on **Saturday, February 19**, at 9:30 a.m. at Notre Dame High School, 7655 Dempster in Niles. If you have items you wish to have added to the agenda, please contact President Bednar. (The Executive Committee is comprised of all former presidents and current officers and committee chairs.)



## 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.

- February 11:* Thomas Cartwright, "The Tennessee Campaign of 1864"
- March 10:* Craig Simonds, "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

- Jean B. Carlson, 2716 Lincolnwood, Evanston, IL, 60201
- Joe E. Clark, 174 MacIntosh Court, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, 630-942-9106
- John Ungashick, 1416 Kirk Street, Evanston, IL 60202, 847-492-9459
- Wouter (Van) Vanderwal, 6913 Lodestone Court, Alexandria, VA 22306-1216, wvanderwal@kreative.net
- Philip Waldron, 3177 Wood Dale Avenue, Merced, CA 95340, 209-383-2749

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Unis Davis, 2944 S. Michigan Avenue, Unit 4, Chicago, IL 60616, 847-778-8550 (work)



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. Marvin Sanderman has announced that the all-star cast of speakers will include Stephen Ambrose, Jean H. Baker, Edwin C. Bearss, Lance Herdegen, and Marshall D. Krolick.