



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LX, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May 2000



591st REGULAR MEETING

**ROBERT ZELLER ON
"THE CIVIL WAR IN DEPTH:
STEREOPTIC VIEWS OF THE
CONFLICT"**

Friday, May 12

**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:
Three-Cheese Chicken
Marinara
or Catch of the Day*



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, May 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.**

ROBERT ZELLER

~ on ~

"The Civil War in Depth: Stereoptic Views of the Conflict"

A FASCINATING 3-D JOURNEY

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

Writer and Civil War photo expert Robert Zeller will lead us on a fascinating 3-D journey into the final frontier of Civil War photography on May 12, when he presents his lecture and slide show with images from his popular book, *The Civil War in Depth*. Mr. Zeller will provide us with special 3-D eyeglasses which will make us feel as if we can literally walk into the scene of some of the most famous photographs of the American Civil War as they are projected onto a large screen. Hand-tinted stereo photographs are actually shown in color. The rest are seen in the exquisite sepia tones

of original albumen stereo-graph prints from the 1860s.

His 1997 book, which comes with its own 3-D viewer, is the first photographic history of the Civil War to present the dramatic photographs of the war in the stereographic format in which they were originally taken and meant to be seen. In a review, historian (and this Round Table's 1981 Nevins-Freeman honoree) James I. Robertson, Jr., wrote: "No one has gone into the 3-D aspect. Zeller is a pioneer in this exciting new field." The slide presentation premiered at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery and has been featured at programs throughout the country.

A native of Washington, D.C., Bob Zeller is a graduate of the University of



Robert Zeller

Missouri School of Journalism. From 1976-1979, he was an investigative reporter for *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson, Mississippi, and from 1979-1990 for the *Press Telegram* in Long Beach, California. Among his many award-winning investigations was a 1981 series, "With Undue Force," which exposed serious police misconduct in the Long Beach Police Department.

From 1991-1998, he covered the NASCAR Winston Cup series as a motorsports writer for *Landmark Newspapers*. Zeller left his newspaper career in the fall of 1998 to become a freelance writer.

His articles appear in *ESPNTThe Magazine*, *Car and Driver*, and *Civil War Times Illustrated*. Other books he has written include *Mark Martin: Driven to Race* (1997) and *Rusty Wallace: The Decision to Win* (1999). Volume Two of *The Civil War in Depth* will be published in the fall of 2000; it will feature more photographic discoveries as well as the first-ever chapter of wartime 3-D views in color.

Bob Zeller, who currently resides in Pleasant Garden, North Carolina, is one of the leading private collectors of original Civil War photography. Images from his collection were featured in the Smithsonian Institution's exhibition on Mathew Brady in 1997-98. He had his own exhibition of original Civil War photography at the Southeast Museum of Photography in 1995.

.....
**Reservations
in by May 8**
.....

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

Officers

President	Charles Bednar
Senior Vice President	Bruce Allardice
Vice President	Roger E. Bohn
Vice President	Janet Linhart
Treasurer	Ted Birndorf
Secretary	Norman Poteshman
Assistant Treasurer	Marge Smogor
Assistant Secretary	Jerry Schur
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Tour Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	Mary Munsell Abroe Roger E. Bohn, C. Robert Douglas Larry Gibbs
Field Artist	Jerry Warshaw
Field Photographer	Roger E. Bohn
Webmaster	William Sullivan
<i>Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968</i>	

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 2000:	Paul Eastes, Larry Hewitt, Nancy Jacobs, Jerri-Jennifer Smart
Terms expiring in 2001:	Richard Farmer, David Jackowski, Jerome Kowalski, David Zucker

Committee Chairs

"Looking for Lincoln" Tour	Brooks Davis
Spring Battlefield Tour	Roger E. Bohn
Co-chair	Marvin Sanderman
Battlefield Preservation Fund ..	Mary Munsell Abroe
Ways and Means	Kurt Carlson
Membership	Marge Smogor, Gene Holland Nevins-Freeman Award
.....	Barbara Hughett
Honors	Norman Poteshman
Publications/Printed Material	David Richert
Publicity/Public Relations	Jerri-Jennifer Smart
Sixtieth Anniversary	Marvin Sanderman
Co-chair	Roger E. Bohn
Hospitality	Bill and Margaret Todd
Nominating	James Nethery
Archives	Paul Eastes, Art Kunis
Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfennig Boutique	Paul Eastes David Jackowski, Nancy Jacobs Bing Owens, Jackie Wilson
Tape Record Librarians	Robert Girardi
.....	Richard Farmer, Jerome Kowalski
House	Paul Eastes, Steven Stewart David Zucker
Shows	Robert Carlson, Larry Hewitt David Howe, Jerome Kowalski

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 ROGER E. BOHN

Hallowed Ground, the periodical of the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), recently had an article on TEA-21, or Transportation Enhancement Funds for Battlefield Preservation. This federal legislation was the largest single source of funding ever for battlefield preservation and interpretation. From 1992-97, \$45 million was invested to preserve significant Civil War sites, to create an infrastructure for education and tourism, and to aid our communities. Thanks to the efforts of preservation groups, like the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the CWPT, the enhancement provision was increased by 40 percent. We can thank CWPT's president, James Lighthizer, for pioneering the use of transportation enhancements funds to save battlefields when he used the funds in Maryland to preserve more than 4,500 acres of Civil War battleground. Grants are now being applied to twenty-five battlefields in Virginia over the next five years.

Activities being funded include acquisition of easements and historic sites; historic preservation and highway programs; and control or removal of outdoor advertising. We should support this legislation.

~~~~~  
The "Preservation News" section of *Civil War News* recently featured an editorial by Chris Heisey, a well-known photojournalist. After the merger which created the Civil War Preservation Trust, Heisey feels that we have a great opportunity to "clearly define our priorities and goals." He indicates that the "preservation business" has been focused on numbers, whether it was APCWS highlighting their forty-six sites in twelve states, valued at \$14 million, or Civil War Trust's twenty-seven sites in thirteen states, valued at \$5 million. Adding to the numbers seemed to be what

was important.

Since we cannot possibly save *all and every* battlefield site from encroaching sprawl, Heisey suggests we need to establish priorities in order to focus attention and monies where they will do the most good. Defining "most good" is the main stumbling block, however. He wonders if a small portion of 3rd Winchester is really worth \$2.5 million; was 100 acres in a compromised setting at Spring Hill worth \$1 million; or should the money be spent on improving the protection and interpretation of sites already preserved? Perhaps *more is not always better ... or is it?*

Heisey also suggests that we could be more active in buying boundary properties adjacent to our national parks, as well as lands inside our parks now owned privately. These may not be "hallowed grounds," but consider such development horrors as that at the Widow Tapp Farm in the Wilderness; the Manassas ambience nightmare east



along Sudley Road; a similar situation at Shiloh along Route 22; the gaudy strip malls along the north side of Chickamauga battlefield; or Ft. Moultrie's recent problem with a private home being built adjacent to the fort.

~~~~~  
In the same issue of *Civil War News*, there are *fifty-eight projects* of Civil War-related groups listed in a "Directory of Projects Seeking Donations." Heisey may be correct when he suggests "we must act around our major battlefields with resource pooling, partnership building, sensible zoning laws and by electing local government officials who support controlled sprawl policies." Perhaps the new Civil War Preservation Trust should act as guide and coordinator for these various factions. Food for thought? ☆

APRIL MEETING

BY ROGER E. BOHN

"The Real War Will Never Get in the Books" was the title of Robert I. Girardi's presentation on April 14, to 92 members and guests at the 590th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Rob graciously stepped in to replace the scheduled speaker, Herbert Mitgang, who was ill. Girardi is a past-president of our Round Table, has a masters degree in public history from Loyola University, and has co-edited books with Peter Cozzens and Nat C. Hughes. The focus of his presentation was the reliability of the *primary sources* upon which most Civil War books are based, and whether or not the *reality of war* ever enters into the historiography.

The title of this presentation is a direct quote from Walt Whitman who, writing of his Civil War experiences in 1882, noted that future generations will never know the "seething hell of countless minor scenes" which were neither the great battles nor the actions of the great generals, but which were so horrendous that it is just as well that they do *not* "get in the books." These scenes, however, "must not be forgotten," and Whitman referred to a number of incidents dealing with wounds, mutilation, sickness, and death.

Girardi raised the question of the *reliability* of the 80,000 books and pamphlets that have been written on the subject of the Civil War since 1865, especially considering the view that some things are too repugnant to be read about by sensitive people. Still, there are thousands of books dealing with aspects of the American Civil War ... but is the "real war" in any of them?

While he was still in high school, Rob Girardi started his personal library, beginning with volumes from a well-known list of the one-hundred best books on the Civil War. He said that he soon realized that the more he read, "the less I knew about more and more."

John Pope, he noted, "is remembered as the general who lost at second Bull Run and who said 'he had his headquarters where his hindquarters should be.' And we all know this is true because we have read the account in many books. In fact, the expression is an old army joke and Pope never said it, but it was attributed to him and it stuck. 'Fighting Joe' Hooker was the general who lost at Chancellorsville and who

was quoted as saying he had lost, 'because I just for once lost confidence in Joe Hooker.' A good story, but it was related by Abner Doubleday, who did *not* invent baseball, but *did* invent this story fifty years after the battle and after Hooker was dead."

Since primary sources are the basis for the ensuing secondary works, Girardi concentrated on documents, personal memoirs, soldiers' diaries, photographs, and newspapers. These sources present the Civil War as the most profound event in the lives of the people that fought in it. They put down on paper what they were fighting for and how they felt about it. Rob noted that since newspapers were of that time notoriously biased, the real cornerstone for study is the *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, or the "ORs," totaling 128 volumes. The Union records alone, at the end of the war, filled a four-story building and the captured Confederate records filled a three-story building.

Between 1882 and 1901, twenty-three different editors sorted through this mass of paper and out came the *ORs* ... the *most important source* of Civil War information, and yet it was full of errors. Girardi listed speculations, dispatches, missing and biased reports, and the shifting-of-blame reports, all listed in such a fashion as to make research very difficult. Conflicting reports from different people at the same battle make it seem as divergent as the conflicting reports from "witnesses" in a modern-day traffic accident. The degradation of reality is the result, and that is exactly where we begin to lose the elusive quality of the *real war*. The poor quality of communications during the Civil War make it nearly impossible to sort out the truth of the matter. From the *ORs* we get, at best, only *clues* as to what really transpired.

Girardi next explored the writings of the officers themselves, observing that many of these memoirs, journals, and diaries represent as divergent a picture as found in the *ORs*. He cited the memoirs of Grant and Sherman as recognized classics of our literature. But he said that we might examine their motives in what they wrote, just as we might examine the words of George McClellan, whose memoirs were destroyed by fire a full six years before the book came out, and which were rewritten by a friend

after McClellan's death!

We were treated to a long and interesting list of "exaggerations, omissions, dubious insertions, distortions, prevarications, and falsifications" made by many of the heroes of history from both the Union and the Confederate viewpoints—none of which got us any closer to the "real war." Girardi feels that he, personally, gets a glimpse of reality when he is involved in re-enacting. He discovered that—at the end of three days of strenuous physical exertion—he wasn't any more interested in pursuing the "enemy" than Meade's men were after Gettysburg, even without the horrors of being in actual combat. He looks at re-enacting as "reading in three-dimensions."

Since Round Table members are all readers of Civil War history, our perception of the war is given to us by the books we read. Girardi suggests we must learn to be a bit more critical in accepting everything we read. If we simply compare reading the box scores of a baseball game in the newspaper with the experience of attending the real game in person, we can begin to see his point about the "real war" never getting into the books.

Nominating Committee Report



James Nethery, chair of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 2000-2001 term.

President Bruce Allardice
 Senior Vice President Roger E. Bohn
 First Vice President Janet Linhart
 Second Vice President Ted Birndorf
 Treasurer Marge Smogor
 Assistant Treasurer Jerome Kowalski
 Secretary Norman Poteshman
 Assistant Secretary Nancy Jacobs
 Trustees (two year terms, which expire in 2002):

Ralph DeFalco, Roger Rudich,
 Steven Stewart, Bill Todd

Trustee (to complete the unexpired term of Jerome Kowalski, who has been nominated for assistant treasurer, with term to expire in 2001):

Jerry Schur

Three trustees, whose terms expire in 2001, will remain in office:

Richard Farmer, David Jackowski,
 and David Zucker

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Roberts, Edward. *Andersonville Journey—the Civil War's Greatest Tragedy*. White mane publ. Co. 1998. \$29.95.
- Schultz, Duane. *The Dahlgren Affair—Terror and Conspiracy in the Civil War*. W. W. Norton & Co. 1998. \$25.95.
- Sears, Stephen W. *Controversies and Commanders: Dispatches from the Army of the Potomac*. Houghton Mifflin. 1998. \$26.00.
- Sears, Stephen W., ed. *Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command by Douglas Southall Freeman* (reprinted in one-volume abridgment). Scribner. 1999. \$65.00. Original of 1942-44.
- Sears, Stephen W. *Mr. Dunn Browne's Experiences in the Army: The Civil War Letters of Samuel W. Fiske (14th Conn. Volunteers)*. Fordham U. Press. 1998. \$27.50.

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.

A Reminder: Monday Lunches

At least since the 1960s (and maybe earlier), a group of Round Table members have regularly gathered for lunch, seasoned with informal Civil War discussions, on Mondays at various downtown restaurants. Presently, the group meets at 12:15 p.m. on Mondays at, appropriately, Monday's Restaurant (on the mezzanine level) at 203 N. LaSalle Street. They meet every Monday (holidays excluded), except for the last Monday of the month when the Union League Club Civil War Round Table holds its meeting. Everyone is welcome. No reservation is necessary; a regular table is reserved for the group. For more information, contact Paul Klekner (o: 312-540-2482; e-mail: paul.klekner@us.pwgcglobal.com).

60

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. Committee Chair 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.

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.



WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that The Civil War Round Table of Chicago has been honored with the 2000 Frank E. Vandiver Award of the Houston

Civil War Round Table. This prestigious award is presented annually to an individual or organization that has contributed significantly to the scholarship or preservation of Civil War history. The award is named for noted historian Frank E. Vandiver, who was our 1982 Nevins-Freeman honoree. **Former President Brooks Davis** will accept the award for us at a ceremony on May 18 in Houston.

Larry Hewitt, a current trustee, addressed the April 24 luncheon meeting of The Union League Club Civil War Round Table. His topic was "Port Hudson: The Most Photographed Battlefield of the Civil War."

Round Table Founder and Former President Elmer Gertz continues to recuperate from heart bypass surgery and a subsequent stroke. Cards and, most importantly, visitors are welcome! Elmer is in room 316 at Vencor Lake Shore Hospital, 6130 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, Illinois 60660. The 147 and 151 buses stop in front of the hospital and Vencor has a large, free parking lot a few yards from the entrance.

"Rallying On The High Ground: A National Park Service Symposium on Strengthening Interpretation of The Civil War Era" is being held at Ford's Theatre National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., on May 8-9. Among the speakers are Ira Berlin, David Blight, Eric Foner, Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., and James M. McPherson. For information, call Jim Johnson at 717-334-1124, extension 453.

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.

- 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, "Lincoln and Grant: The Commander in Chief and the Chief Commander"
- September 8: Thomas Lowry, topic to be announced
- October 13: Charles P. Roland, Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner
- November 11 (Saturday): All-day 60th Anniversary Seminar and Banquet
- December 8: Gordon Rhea, "The Overland Campaign"
- January 12: Terry Winschel, "The Vicksburg Campaign"
- February 9: To be announced
- March 9: Mark Bradley, "The Surrender in North Carolina"
- April 20: Richard McMurray, topic to be announced
- May 11: Anne J. Bailey, "The Recruitment of African-American Troops"
- June 8: Leslie Gordon, "General George Pickett"

NEW MEMBERS

- James and Margaret Boylan, 1239 W. Norwood, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-508-5913
- Don Eldredge, 1141 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, IL 60015, 847-374-1522

We are very sad to report the death of Kathy Carr, wife of **Former President Terry Carr**, on April 13. Our most heartfelt condolences go to Terry and their family.

We recently learned of the death of former member **Dale Weitman** on April 15. Dale served as a trustee in 1989-90 and 1991-93, and as assistant treasurer in 1990-91. Our deepest condolences go to his wife Clydene and their family.