

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXI, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

November 2000



PROGRAM

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8:00 a.m.

Registration, Continental Breakfast

8:45 a.m.

Welcome by Marvin Sanderman,
60th Anniversary Chairman

Presentation of the Colors,
Commemoration of Veterans Day

★ ★ ★

9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Speakers and Their Topics

★ ★ ★

11:30 a.m. Luncheon

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4:30 p.m.

Break - Book and Art Sales

5:30 p.m.

Cocktails - Cash Bar

6:30 p.m.

Invocation by the Honorable
Abraham Lincoln Marovitz

Dinner

7:15 p.m.

Cutting of the
60th Anniversary Cake
Brooks and Betsey Davis

7:30 p.m.

Special 60th Anniversary Award
Presentations, as well as Individual
Tributes to the Memories of
Margaret April, Elmer Gertz, and
Ralph G. Newman, with
President Bruce Allardice presiding

8:30 p.m.

Live Concert of
Authentic Civil War Music
97th Regimental String Band

Sixtieth Anniversary Celebration

The Civil War Round Table of Chicago and The Civil War Round Table Movement

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2000

FOUNTAIN BLUE BANQUET HALL, DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS



THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM The Speakers and Their Topics

9:00 a.m.

Introduction of Marshall D. Krolick, by Roger E. Bohn
"The Federal Reaction to Mosby and His Tactics" - Marshall D. Krolick

10:00 a.m.

Break - Refreshments, Book and Art Sales

10:30 a.m.

Introduction of Lance Herdegen, by Larry Gibbs
"Those Damned Black Hats: The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg" -
Lance Herdegen

11:30 a.m.

Luncheon - Book and Art Sales

12:30 p.m.

Introduction of Edwin C. Bearss, by Kurt Carlson
"Stump Ed" - Interactive Question and Answer Session

1:30 p.m.

Break - Refreshments, Book and Art Sales

2:00 p.m.

Introduction of Jean H. Baker, by Barbara Hughett
"Mary Todd Lincoln: The White House Years," - Jean H. Baker

3:00 p.m.

Break - Refreshments, Book and Art Sales

3:30 p.m.

Introduction of Stephen Ambrose, by Daniel Weinberg
"The Civil War Round Tables," - Stephen Ambrose

(Schedule may vary according to speaker travel requirements.)

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 ROGER E. BOHN

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is to be congratulated for the October opening of their refurbished quarters in downtown Frederick, Maryland. Filled with interesting and informative exhibits, the Museum will be a part of the *CWRT's 51st Annual Tour to Antietam-Maryland*, May 2-6, 2001.

Also regarding Antietam, the National Park Service has purchased the privately-owned historic Poffenberger Farm. The property is inside the park boundary at the northern edge of the North Woods and a walking trail is contemplated along the battle's famous/infamous Cornfield. Historic structures include the huge barn which served as Hooker's headquarters, as well as other out-buildings. Park Superintendent John Howard indicates that this newly acquired property may be ready for our "inspection" on our *51st Tour*. The 120 acres, with the eight historic buildings, was sold for \$385,000.

John Howard also applauds the Maryland Board of Public Works' expenditure of \$764,000 to buy 451 acres of easement in the Antietam Battlefield viewshed. The easements will protect the viewshed and will buffer the Potomac River from development, according to *Civil War News*.

The Civil War Preservation Trust is hoping the U.S. Congress will pass two bills giving them the money to buy the land owned by Ira Adams in order to preserve Bradley's Knoll, according to a report from Jerry Russell. Adams has plans to develop the site. The most intensive fighting of the battle of Spring Hill, Tennessee, took place here, according to Jim Campi, communications director for the CWRT, and "industrial development would obviously adversely affect the historical integrity of the site."

The *50th Tour-2000* was privileged to cover this private-property battle site last May, and Ed Bearss was impressed with his first close-up examination of the area. You might want to write your U.S. Senator in support of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act funding for this important purchase. (c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510).

The Vicksburg Campaign Trail Battle-

fields Preservation Act, S-710, is also before the U.S. House, according to the CWPT. This bill allocates \$1.5 million to study the preservation of Vicksburg-related Civil War sites in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Tennessee. Sites to be studied include Helena, Arkansas Post; Milkens Bend, Goodrich's Landing; Champion Hill, Grand Gulf; and the site of the start of Grierson's Raid at LaGrange, Tennessee. "Studying the site" is the first step in focusing attention on the endangered properties before they are lost forever. As Jerry Russell says, "Battlefield Preservation is a never-ending process!" It is sad to note that it takes \$1.5 million just to "study" the sites.

For the trivia buffs . . . The Civil War Round Table of Kansas City was founded by Harry S Truman after he left the Presidency. The KC-CWRT has for decades fought to preserve their area sites of Little Blue, Big Blue, Westport, and Mine Creek. Ted Birndorf's *CWRT 52nd Tour-2002* to the Trans-Mississippi will take us to this area.

Another item concerns the *CSS Hunley*, the Confederate "submarine" which has been very much in-the-news lately. The *Civil War News* reports a correction in this regard, i.e., "We have been advised that the Hunley was privately funded and never commissioned, thus was known simply as the *H.L. Hunley*." Now that that's cleared up, we can look forward to the further examination of the artifact. I, personally, agree that we should learn all we can from this historically important recovery. ☆

Former President Brooks Davis has announced the contribution of two bound volumes of *Harper's Weekly* magazine, covering the years 1861-1865, to aid the cause of battlefield preservation and/or battle flag preservation. The volumes have been appraised at \$200. They will be auctioned (in either a regular auction or a silent auction) at the December 8 meeting. For further information, contact Brooks at 312-944-5082.

OCTOBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

The twenty-seventh annual Nevins-Freeman Award of The Civil War Round Table was bestowed on renowned historian Charles P. Roland on October 13. The award, established in 1974 and named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, is presented to individuals to honor their outstanding contributions to the preservation of American history, especially that which occurred between the years 1861 and 1865. Dr. Roland appeared before 95 members and guests at the 594th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. The topic of his acceptance address was "Robert E. Lee and the Leadership of Character."

Alumni Professor emeritus at the University of Kentucky, Dr. Roland is the author of several books, including *Reflections on Lee: A Historian's Assessment* (1995). In his speech, he expanded on the themes of this book concerning the character, leadership capabilities, and generalship.

"Robert E. Lee is fascinating because he is a most tragic hero due to his loyalty for his cause—the Confederacy," Roland stated. "He was followed by a very un-American trait—the shadow of defeat." However, one historian has unequivocally indicated that he thought "Lee was the greatest general who spoke the English language." According to Union General Winfield Scott, "Lee was the greatest U.S. soldier in the Mexican War." When the Civil War began, Scott recommended Lee for the top spot in the U.S. Army and President Lincoln offered that position to Lee—but he declined. Lee claimed that, "I cannot draw my sword against my people." Roland opined that Lee was the one man who could have possibly ended the conflict within a year if he had accepted the Union offer.

Most historians recognize Lee as a good field commander and tactician, but recently he has been criticized as a provincial, old-fashioned strategist, only concerned about protection for his beloved Virginia. Some proclaimed that Lee was too offensive-minded, thus inflicting too many casualties on the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee had been criticized for not being cognizant of the change that the rifled musket made in Civil War tactics.

According to Roland, these critics

ignore the basic facts about Lee, the general. If Lee had advocated guerilla warfare, several horrific decades of warfare could have ensued, with devastating ramifications for future generations. If General Lee surrendered the offensive for a complete defensive strategy, the Union could have increased its superior force and eventually strangle the Confederacy. Roland explained, "Lee on the defensive would be a recipe for certain Rebel defeat." He pointed out that the Confederacy *did* fight on the defensive many times, but at only one such time—at the Battle of Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862)—did the Confederates emerge victorious."

"The only way to defeat the Union," Roland continued, "was for the Confederate armies to break the will of the Northern people, inflicting severe casualties on Union armies on the battlefield. On three occasions, the Union's will to persevere was severely tested due to the generalship of Robert E. Lee. Northern will drooped alarmingly in the spring and early summer of 1862, when Rebel General Stonewall Jackson menaced the Union in the Shenandoah Valley, while Lee drove the Union from Richmond. Then the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1-4, 1863) proved to be a boost for Confederate morale, before Lee's advance into Pennsylvania in June and July. The third occasion occurred when Lee faced General Ulysses S. Grant in the long summer of 1864 during the Overland campaign. Lee was responsible for the possibility of Confederate victory in each of these three instances, according to Dr. Roland.

Roland admitted that Lee made several strategic mistakes. Some blunders were very costly, such as the futile frontal attacks at Malvern Hill (July 1, 1862) and the third day at Gettysburg (July 3, 1863). These charges against a numerically superior enemy were repulsed decisively. However, the Confederate effort lasted four long years, even though the Rebels were fighting with limited means. Roland feels that Lee's tenacity and leadership skills were the principal reasons for the extended duration of the war.

Lee's motivation of troops and his

qualifications as a commander were discussed as Roland indicated that "Lee could read the strengths, fears, and future moves of his opponents. He had an intuitive characteristic to do the unexpected, that great generals penetrate the brains of their adversaries." Roland refuted the argument that Lee was too committed to the past when he claimed that Lee made use of railroads, mass field artillery, and railroad artillery ahead of other Civil War generals.

Robert E. Lee's great strength of character may have derived from the cult of Virginia gentility and from his profound religious beliefs. He looked to George Washington as his role model. Roland declared, "Lee believed that the decision of the war lay in God's hands." General Lee embraced a strong resoluteness as a commander. In concluding, Roland noted, "A great force of will for a commander is a necessity for good leadership. As an effective commander, General Robert E. Lee drove the Union armies to the brink of defeat and the edge of despair, even though he was greatly outnumbered in the field."

NEW KEITH ROCCO PAINTING TO BE UNVEILED AT 60TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Historical author Keith Rocco has announced that his new work on First Kernstown will be ready and placed on display at The Civil War Round Table of Chicago's 60th Anniversary Celebration. This major new work was commissioned by Round Table member Robert Carlson, to commemorate both his great-grandfather, Henry Hertzog, and his great-uncle, William Hertzog. Both were members of the 39th Illinois Regiment and fought in the March 23, 1862, battle. William Hertzog was killed in 1864 at City Point, Virginia, while serving under General Benjamin Butler.

Rocco further announced that all proceeds from the sale of this print will be donated to battlefield preservation. The prints will be limited, numbered, and signed. Prices and quantities will be determined and will be available at the display booth. Rocco and Carlson are offering this contribution to thank members of all Civil War Round Tables for their continuing fund raising efforts to purchase and preserve hallowed Civil War battlefield land.



THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Wallace, Lee, Jr., ed. *The History of a Brigade of South Carolinians First Known as "Gregg's" and Subsequently as "McGowan's" Brigade* by J. F. J. Caldwell. Morningside Press. 1998. \$35.00. Original of 1866.

Weaver, C. P., ed. *Thank God My Regiment an African One: The Civil War Diary of Colonel Nathan W. Daniels (2nd Louisiana Native Guards)*. LSU Press. 1998. \$26.95.

Weeks, Rev. Sylvester, ed. *Civil War Memoirs of Brig. Gen. Granville Moody—"The Fighting Parson" (74th Ohio Infantry)*. The General's Books. 1998. \$24.95. Original of 1890.

Wert, Jeffrey D. *A Brotherhood of Valor: The Common Soldiers of the Stonewall Brigade, C.S.A. and the Iron Brigade, U.S.A.* Simon & Schuster. 1999. \$25.00.

Wilbur, C. Keith, MD. *Civil War Medicine 1861-1865*. The Globe Pequot Press. 1998. Pbk. \$14.95.

Willis, James. *Arkansas Confederates in the Western Theater*. Morningside Press. 1998. \$39.95.



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.

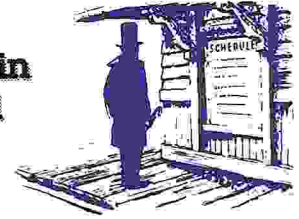
Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.

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.

Registrar Carole LeClaire has announced that all 2000-2001 dues must be paid by December 1. Those who have not paid their dues will not receive a December newsletter.

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 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: Jack Welsh, "The Medical Histories of Civil War Generals"

March 9: Mark Bradley, "The Surrender in North Carolina"

April 20: Richard McMurray, topic to be announced

May 2-6: Annual Battlefield Tour, Antietam-Maryland

May 11: Anne J. Bailey, "The Recruitment of African-American Troops"

June 8: Lesley Gordon, "General George Pickett"

NEW MEMBER

Donald William McLaughlin, 1562 Apache Drive, Naperville, IL 60563, 630-357-5291

MARGARET APRIL

March 1, 1912-October 2, 2000

by Barbara Hughett

Few, if any, have contributed as much to The Civil War Round Table of Chicago as has Margaret April. She became the first woman member in 1977, when women were finally allowed membership. However, she had been working with The Round Table for twenty-seven years prior to that, making speaker and meeting arrangements and taking care of every minute detail of the annual battlefield tours—even though, as a woman, she was not allowed to even go on a tour until 1956. She had been planning them since the first tour in 1951. She continued to serve as tour registrar through 1984, and attended the monthly dinner meetings until the early to mid-1990s when her health began to fail.

While it's true that part of her work came under her job description as Ralph Newman's secretary (in which capacity she served for nearly forty years), the extent of her dedication to and work for The Round Table went far beyond that. She loved The Civil War Round Table and the people who comprised its membership.

Margaret was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation in June of 1972, for the countless hours she had spent planning the tours. A parody of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, it read in part, "The membership will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what she did to so nobly advance the success of our tours." Margaret was also awarded an Honorary Lifetime membership and has continued to be listed in the masthead of the battlefield edition of the *Newsletter* as *Registrar Emerita* (1951-1984).

Margaret April died on October 2, after a prolonged battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was my friend and I will treasure my memories of her. She was very helpful to me when I was writing the history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship* (1990), and I had the privilege of getting to know her pretty well during the period of time I was doing research for the book.

Margaret was indeed a great lady. I am very sad to note that only four of us from The Round Table attended her funeral on October 5.

On behalf of all past and current Round Table members, we send our most heartfelt condolences to her family—especially to her daughter Diane, her son and daughter-in-law, Bob and Kathy, and her sister Frieda.

The Civil War Round Table Celebrates Its 60th Anniversary

Brief Biographies of Speakers

STEPHEN AMBROSE



Stephen Ambrose, widely regarded as one of the finest historical writers of the century, grew up in Whitewater, Wisconsin, and earned both his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He received his M.A. from Louisiana State University. He wrote his first book, *Halleck: Lincoln's Chief of Staff*, while he was working on his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. Shortly after the book came out, he received a call from President Dwight D. Eisenhower, an admirer of Halleck's who was impressed with Ambrose's biography. He asked the young author to help edit the Eisenhower papers and later asked him to write a biography of the former president.

He is the author of over twenty



books, in addition to the Halleck biography. Among them are recent *New York Times* best sellers *D-Day, June 6, 1944: The Climactic Battle of World War II*, *Citizen Soldiers*, and *Undaunted Courage: Meriwether Lewis, Thomas Jefferson and the Opening of the American West*. His most recent book—currently on all the best-seller lists in the country—is *Nothing Like It In The World: The Building of the Transcontinental Railroad*.

Ambrose served as historical consultant on Stephen Spielberg's Academy Award-winning movie, "Saving Private Ryan" and is the founder of the National D-Day Museum in New Orleans, which officially opened this past June 6. His numerous honors include the Bob Hope Award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, and the National Humanities Award. He is frequently a guest commentator on national television programs, such as "Nightline" and the "Newshour with Jim Lehrer." His academic appointments have included serving from 1971-1995 as Boyd Professor at the University of New Orleans.

In 1959, Stephen Ambrose wrote an article for the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* on the young Civil War Round Table movement. In it, he noted that "The Round Tables are another evidence that the quiver has not yet subsided and that a catastrophe which divided the nation a hundred years ago is, today, through the Civil War Round Tables, helping to unite it."

JEAN H. BAKER

Professor of history at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, Jean Baker received her B.A. degree from Goucher, and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Johns Hopkins University, where she was a student of eminent historian, David Herbert Donald. She held, for ten years, the Elizabeth Conolly Todd professorship at Goucher and also served as chair of the history department. She is currently the director of the college's undergraduate program in historic preservation. Baker also served as visiting professor at the University of North Carolina and at Harvard University.

She is the author of what is consid-

ered by many to be the definitive biography of Mary Lincoln, *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*. Her other books include *Ambivalent Americans: The Know-Nothing Party in Maryland*, *Affairs of Party: The Political Culture of Northern Democrats in Mid-Century America*, and *The Stevensons of Illinois: A Biography of an American Family*. She has been a commentator on various historical programs on television and was interviewed twice on C-SPAN programs, regarding Mary Todd Lincoln and the Stevenson family.

Baker's current projects include the revision of *Civil War and Reconstruction*, with David Herbert Donald and Michael Holt, and a book on the suffrage movement. The latter is titled *Connections: The Lives of The American Suffrage Leaders*.

EDWIN C. BEARSS

Ed Bearss needs no introduction to the members of the Chicago Round Table. He has been leading our annual spring battlefield tours since 1961. He has spoken to us six times at regular meetings and many other times during seminars, battlefield tours, and at our 50th Anniversary festivities on October 12-14, 1990. He received our annual Nevins-Freeman Award in 1980.

A native of Montana, Ed grew up on his grandfather's ranch where he named the cattle for Civil War generals and battles. After graduating from high school, he im-



