

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXI, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 2001



600th REGULAR MEETING



RICHARD M. McMURRY
ON

"SOME THOUGHTS ON THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN"



Friday, April 20



HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members \$35 - Nonmembers

Entrée:

*Sliced Strip Loin with
Pommeroy Mustard Sauce
or Catch of the Day*



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, April 16**, 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 \$7 with a validated parking sticker.**

Over the next few months, due to street renovations, the bridge south of the hotel will be closed. We apologize for this inconvenience.

RICHARD M. McMURRY

~ on ~

"Some Thoughts on the Atlanta Campaign"

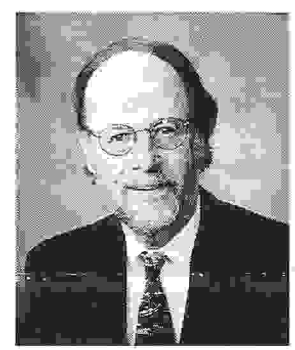
UNION ARMIES HAD TO WIN

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

As a result of the successes of earlier campaigns, Federal forces found themselves at the beginning of 1864 poised at what should have been a quick end to the war. Such, however, was not the case. The Confederates performed a miracle of rebuilding their armies after the disasters they suffered in 1863, and in 1864 the North made several crucial errors that gave the Rebels new hope. Because of these errors, the South had a much better chance of achieving independence in 1864 than any observer might have expected when the year began.

By mid-summer the Federals had failed to win any new success and the northern public seemed to be losing its willingness to support the war. If President Abraham Lincoln lost the fall election, his successor might be willing to abandon the effort to preserve the Union. The story of the 1864 campaigns is one of the interaction of military and political factors. The stakes were high, involving nothing less than the very existence of the United States.

Union armies had to win some great success before the fall election. That success came at Atlanta. Richard M. McMurry will address The Round Table on April 20;



Richard M. McMurry

his topic will be "Some Thoughts on the Atlanta Campaign."

A native of Atlanta, Dr. McMurry received his B.A. degree from the Virginia Military Institute and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Emory University. He has taught history at Valdosta State College in Georgia and at North Carolina State University. Since 1988, he has been a freelance writer and speaker and has served as guide/historian for many tour and cruise groups.

McMurry's books include *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence*, *Two Great Rebel Armies: An Essay in Confederate Military History*, *Virginia Military Institute Alumni in the Civil War: In Bello Praesidium*, and *Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy*. His latest book, *The Fourth Battle of Winchester: Toward a New Civil War Paradigm*, will be published by Kent State University Press.

His John Bell Hood biography won both the Mrs. Simon Baruch University Award, presented by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Fletcher Pratt Award, presented by the New York Civil War Round Table. Richard McMurry last addressed this Round Table in April of 1990 when his topic was "Confederate Journalism."



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
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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

Development Threats Persist at Harpers Ferry: The March/April edition of *National Parks*, the magazine of the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA), reports that a proposed residential development bordering Harpers Ferry National Historical Park has received the first of several needed permits. The nearly 200-unit subdivision features a 130-foot water tower that will be seen throughout the park, while its treated sewage will flow into the Shenandoah River above the park. The 100-acre location for this proposed development is Murphy Farm on historic School House Ridge, a site that is essential for depicting the role of Harpers Ferry in the 1862 Maryland campaign.

An early March feature story on CNN also focused on Harpers Ferry and echoed the warning issued in *National Parks*. In addition to the one hundred acres designated for the Murphy Farm subdivision, close to three hundred more acres on School House Ridge currently are on the market; in total six hundred acres there are unprotected. Both *National Parks* and CNN indicated that Congress appropriated \$2 million for land acquisition from willing sellers at Harpers Ferry in the 2001 Interior Appropriations bill. That sum, however, may be inadequate to take care of all the threatened acreage. If such is the case, the Murphy Farm development could move ahead as early as this summer.

Please write to West Virginia's governor, Robert Wise, and urge him to make sure that state review of future permit applications to develop School House Ridge take into account the development's possible effects on historical resources; he may be reached at 1900 E. Kanawha Blvd., Charleston, WV 25305. You may also write to Senator Robert Byrd, Senate Hart Building, Room 311, Washington, D.C. 20510. For additional information, visit the NPCA's web site at www.npca.org/take_action.

Legislation Introduced to Make Chattanooga's Moccasin Bend a Federal Park: In mid-March the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported that Congressman Zach Wamp of Tennessee recently introduced legislation to add the 911-acre Moccasin Bend site to the National Park System; all nine members of Tennessee's House delegation and Congressman Nathan Deal of Georgia cosponsored the measure. Moccasin Bend possesses Civil War earthworks dating from the battle of Lookout Mountain in 1863 as well as remnants of an uninterrupted Native American presence encompassing about eight thousand years. The mostly undeveloped acreage, located

across the Tennessee River from downtown Chattanooga, will be designated a "national historic site"—complete with visitor center—if the bill becomes law.

The project's specifics are still in the planning stages. Officials have indicated, however, that much of the anticipated \$30 million needed for funding will be accumulated privately. Moccasin Bend was considered "national park" material previously—during the early 1950s. However, then-governor Frank Clement did not support the site's inclusion in the National Park System, and that effectively killed the project.

For additional information, refer to the website of the Friends of Moccasin Bend National Park: www.chattanooga.net/fmbnp.

As announced by Roger Bohn at our March meeting, we have received clarification about an incorrect, recently circulated report involving the National Museum of Civil War Medicine (NMCWM). The board of directors of the NMCWM is **not** considering removal of the Confederate battle flag from the museum's logo.

According to JaNeen Smith, the museum's executive director, an item on the agenda of the museum board's regular meeting in February was a review of the museum's logo, not a proposal to remove the battle flag from the logo. That review sprang from an incident in which a high schooler wearing a shirt with the NMCWM logo was asked to change. The inaccuracies associated with this incident—inaccuracies reported on the internet—were that the student was punished significantly and that external pressure was being brought to bear on the museum to eliminate the Confederate battle flag from its logo. As Ms. Smith pointed out, the museum board bears responsibility for dealing with all museum-associated issues and events, both positive and negative; as such, the board had to explore this situation.

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine is a first-rate, highly professional educational institution whose goal is to impart the unbiased and accurate story of Civil War-era medicine. It is also the long-time project of our own Gordon Dammann, whose nationally known collection of Civil War medical instruments and related artifacts constitutes the core of the museum's collection. The Civil War Round Table of Chicago is pleased to support the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, which will host us during our upcoming battlefield tour to Antietam and Monocacy.

MARCH MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

"The Surrender in North Carolina" was the subject of Mark Bradley's address on March 9, presented before 102 members and guests at the 599th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Bradley, who is currently a graduate student in military history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is the author of many articles on the American Civil War and two books, *The Battle of Bentonville* (1966) and *This Astonishing Close: The Road to Bennett Place* (2000). His presentation derived from the latter work, dealing with the conclusion of the war in North Carolina.

In March 1865, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman and his army of 90,000 were in pursuit of Confederate General Joseph Johnston's 30,000 Rebels across the land of central North Carolina. Johnston's Army of Tennessee had escaped capture after the Battle of Bentonville (March 19-20, 1865). On March 27, Sherman went to City Point, Virginia, to plot the final campaign with General Ulysses S. Grant. When he arrived, he found that a surprise guest had appeared in the person of President Abraham Lincoln.

"Sherman wanted Grant to delay the final assault on the siege of Petersburg until April 10, but Grant had decided to move decisively and promptly. Sherman wanted Union cavalry General Philip Sheridan to offer him security as he chased Johnston, but Sheridan refused, primarily to enhance his own reputation by staying with Grant," Bradley explained.

At their meeting, Lincoln implied to Sherman that he should allow Confederate President Jefferson Davis to escape if the situation arose. On April 2, Richmond fell to Grant's army. On April 10, Sherman resumed his campaign against Johnston. Though General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Grant the previous day, Johnston had not yet received that information.

Johnston waited to begin surrender negotiations with Sherman on April 15; he met with Sherman at Durham, North Carolina, on April 17, at the Bennett House. Upon entering the house, Sherman handed a dispatch to Johnston. Bradley explained, "The telegram brought the news of the assassination of President Lincoln." According to Sherman, Johnston, shaken and perspiring, proclaimed that this event

was the 'greatest possible calamity for the South.'

In an ironic twist, Sherman, whose reputation hinged on his infamous "March to the Sea" in Georgia, gave Johnston exceedingly lenient terms. For example, Confederate armies were allowed to go to their state capitals and deposit arms. The U.S. President would recognize various state governments once their leaders took an oath to the U.S. Constitution. Southern personal, political, and private rights would be guaranteed. Additionally, an amnesty would be granted to all southerners, including Confederate President Jefferson Davis and his officers.

On April 21, President Andrew Johnson, General Grant, and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton were all shocked upon learning of the terms that Sherman had given to Johnston. They immediately rejected Sherman's terms of surrender and a different set of terms had to be negotiated.

The two commanders then met again on April 26. This time Johnston accepted the terms that Lee had accepted on April 9 at Appomattox Court House, and several supplemental terms were added. One of seven of Johnston's men could return firearms and some artillery horses could be kept by the Confederates.

The war in North Carolina was officially over when General Johnston signed the second set of surrender terms. Almost 33,000 Rebels surrendered to Sherman, while only 8,000-10,000 had surrendered to Grant at Appomattox.

The Union victory had a bitter taste in the aftermath of confusion over the rejection of Sherman's original terms of surrender. In a *New York Times* feature story on April 28, the paper reported that Sherman's plan was rejected at first, and that Sherman had the idea that Davis should be allowed to escape. Accusations against Sherman extended to a charge of treason.

Sherman, hurt and humiliated over this episode, gained a measure of revenge at the Grand Review of the Union Army in Washington, D.C. At the end of the parade, he dismounted and refused to shake the hand of Secretary of War Stanton—whom he felt was his principal accuser—in front of the vast audience.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Norman Hellmers, superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site, delivered the spring **Ralph G. Newman Lecture** at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois, on March 21.

The **McHenry County Civil War Round Table** is sponsoring Spring Seminar 2001 on Saturday, April 28, at the McHenry Country Club. Speakers include Mark Plummer, David Eicher, and Richard Zeitlin. Registration is \$35 per person. Send your check to the McHenry Round Table, 605 N. Green Street, McHenry, Illinois 60050.

The **Civil War Round Table of New York** will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary with an all-day program on Saturday, May 12. Speakers will include Dennis Frye, Jeff Shaara, Harold Holzer, Gordon Rhea, and Gary Gallagher. The program, which will include musical entertainment, will be held at the Seventh Regiment Armory in New York City. The \$100-per-person cost includes breakfast, lunch, and dinner. For information, call Patrick Falci, chairman of the event, at 718-525-3446.

The **Twentieth Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference**, hosted this year by the Jefferson County Civil War Round Table, will be held in Madison, Indiana, on May 11-12. Speakers include our member Larry Hewitt, Edwin C. Bearss, Terry Winschel, Dale Phillips, Nathaniel C. Hughes, Jr., and Tony Trimble. The theme is "War on the River." For information, contact Gordon Whitney (former president of this Round Table, 1973-74) at 812-273-6907.

We are saddened to report the recent death of former President **J. Robert Ziegler** (1984-85) of lung cancer. Bob Ziegler was also a past president of the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table and served as editor of its newsletter. Our heartfelt condolences go to his son Steve and all of Bob's family.

Judge Abraham Lincoln Marovitz, noted Chicago jurist and history buff, died on March 17 at the age of 95. Our deepest condolences go to his family.

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Tucker, Spencer C. *Andrew Foote: Civil War Admiral on the Western Waters*. Naval Institute Press. 2000. \$34.95.
- Wakelyn, Jon L., ed. *Southern Unionist Pamphlets and the Civil War*. U. of Missouri Press. 1999. \$39.95.
- Walsh, John E. *Moonlight: Abraham Lincoln and the Almanac Trial*. St. Martin's Press. 2000. \$22.95.
- Weigley, Russell. *A Great Civil War: A Military and Political History, 1861-1865*. Indiana U. Press. 2000. \$30.00.
- Weitz, Mark A. *A Higher Duty: Desertion Among Georgia Troops During the Civil War*. U. of Nebraska Press. 2000. \$30.00.
- Welcher, Frank J. and Larry J. Liggett. *Coburn's Brigade — 85th Indiana, 33rd Indiana, 19th Michigan and 22nd Wisconsin in the Western Civil War*. Guild Press of Indiana. 2000. \$29.95.
- Wensyel, James W. *Appomattox: The Passing of the Armies*. White Mane Publ. Co.
- Williams, T. P. *The Mississippi Brigade of Brig. Gen. Joseph R. Davis — A Geographical Account of Its Campaigns and a Biographical Account of Its Personalities, 1861-1865*. Morningside Bookshop. 2000. \$34.95.
- Woodworth, Steven E. *This Grand Spectacle: The Battle of Chattanooga*. McWhiney Foundation Press. 1999. \$19.95; pbk. \$12.95.
- Young, Elizabeth. *Disarming the Nation: Women's Writings and the American Civil War*. U. of Chicago Press. 1999. Pbk. \$18.00.

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.



SAVE THIS DATE

Author and scholar David Long will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association on Saturday, June 9. Dr. Long is writing a book on the 1860 election and was featured in the recent PBS-TV series, "Abraham and Mary Lincoln: A House Divided." He spoke to this Round Table in December of 1994. Additional information will appear in the next newsletter. Direct any questions to Brooks Davis, 312-944-5082.

"Illinois and the Nation in the Age of Douglas" is the theme of the Second Biennial Stephen A. Douglas History Symposium, sponsored by the Macon County Conservation District and the Stephen A. Douglas Association, to be held on April 28 in Decatur, Illinois. Speakers include William G. Shade, Rodney O. Davis, Bruce Tap, and Christopher Schnell. For information, call Brent Wielt (217-423-7708).

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.

- April 20: Richard McMurry, "Some Thoughts on the Atlanta Campaign"
- 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 MEMBERS

- Thomas G. King, 2745 N. Pine Grove, Chicago, IL 60014, 773-929-0005
- Lois Polakoff, 6702 N. Seeley, Chicago, IL 60645, 1-773-465-4052

SICK BAY

The following members are hospitalized or recuperating at home:

- Jerry Russell, chairman of Civil War Round Table Associates and Honorary Life member of this Round Table, is recovering from heart bypass surgery.
- Former President Mike Cohn (1977-78) is recovering from an angioplasty procedure.
- Larry Hewitt will undergo surgery at St. Joseph Hospital for a parathyroid condition on March 26.
- Former President Jerry Warshaw (1968-69) will undergo surgery for cancer of the esophagus at Evanston Hospital on March 30.

They would all appreciate cards or calls. If you need an address, check your Round Table roster or call your newsletter editor, Barbara Hughett (773-973-5822).

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.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES TO THE MART PLAZA HOLIDAY INN

Wacker Drive is now closed!

The bridges at Orleans and Franklin near the Mart Plaza will be closed for the next several months.

From the West & South off I-55 and I-290:

Proceed east to 90/94 West to the Ohio Street East exit. At the stop sign, which is Orleans Street, turn right and proceed five blocks to the Apparel Center. Just past the building, which is on the right, is the entrance to the self-park area.

From either 90/94 East or West:

Exit at Ohio Street East. At the traffic light, which is Orleans Street, turn right and follow the directions above.

Northbound Franklin Traffic:

All northbound traffic south of the river will be directed east on Wacker Drive to northbound LaSalle Street, then west on Hubbard Street. Access to 350 North Orleans, the Apparel Center and the Mart Plaza, will be via southbound Orleans, which will be temporarily made a two-way street during bridge construction.