

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 2001



604th REGULAR MEETING

★★★★★

NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS
BROOKS DAVIS ON
"STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS
AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN:
FRIENDLY ENEMIES?"

★★★★★

Friday, October 12

★★★★★

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

Pommerey Mustard

Brodelaïse or Catch of the Day



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, October 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 \$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.

BROOKS DAVIS

- on -

"Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?"

NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS

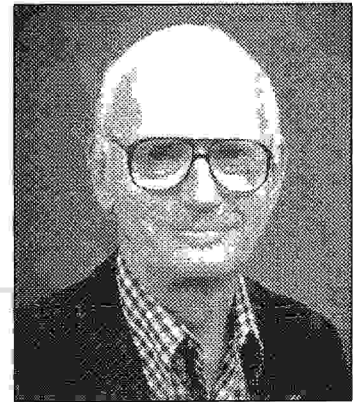
BY BARBARA HUGHETT

The Nevins-Freeman Award, named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in 1974. It is presented to individuals to honor their outstanding contributions to the preservation of American history, especially that which occurred between the years 1861-1865.

This year the Round Table is bestowing its very highest honor on one of our own distinguished members - Past President (1965-66) and Honorary Life member Brooks Davis.

Brooks has been a Round Table member since 1958 and his wife Betsey has been a member since 1977 (the first year that women were allowed membership). They joined the group's fourteenth annual battlefield tour to Louisiana in 1964 at the conclusion of their honeymoon. Few have contributed as much to The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in its sixty-one year history as has Brooks Davis.

Civil War history has played an important part in Brooks Davis's life for many years. It began in childhood when he learned that his grandfather had served in the war as a private in the 152nd Pennsylvania Heavy Artillery. Later, after the war's conclusion, he was stationed at Fort Monroe when Jefferson Davis was imprisoned there; his was one of the three



Brooks Davis

companies detailed to guard the former Confederate president.

Brooks said that his grandfather and Davis discovered that they were distant cousins. "Jefferson Davis gave my grandfather a brass candlestick—which I still have—as a memento." Brooks is a member of both the Sons of Union Veterans and the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

After a long career in the furniture business, Brooks retired from Baker Knapp and Tubbs in the Merchandise Mart in the early 1990s. He served as an officer of numerous furniture industry-related organizations and was the recipient of many professional awards, including three from the American Society of Interior Designers. He was awarded

the 1990 Chairman's Award of the Design Industries Foundation for AIDS and was the first and only recipient of the Distinguished Benefactor Award bestowed by the Merchandise Mart in 1988.

Since retirement, he has been engaged in private consulting and in teaching history courses at Northwestern University's Institute of Learning in Retirement. He has served on the boards of many philanthropic, civic, and historical associations. All of his affiliations are far too numerous to include here, but we will note a few.



Call by Monday, October 8

(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

Officers

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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

As concerned citizens and people of good will, we have come together to support fellow Americans at a time of deep human sorrow and need. The work of educating, trying to bridge gaps, and remembering our heritage is always important, never moreso than now; it is part of being a good citizen. We will try to do that here.

Transfer of Deed for Commercial Block at Perryville Will Promote Restoration: In early August the Associated Press reported that Perryville's Merchants' Row, a commercial district whose seven, well-preserved structures date to the Civil War, would be transferred to municipal-government ownership within the month. No city monies will be used to maintain and restore the properties; according to Perryville mayor Bruce Richardson, the city's holding title means that state and federal funds can be used for upkeep and restoration.

Title to Merchants' Row had been held in trust by Alan Hoeweler, a Cincinnati businessman and member of the Cincinnati CWRT, who purchased the buildings and their contents in 1995. With the deed's transfer to the Perryville City Council, the Merchants' Row properties will be leased back to the Perryville Enhancement Project, a preservation partnership involving the Perryville Battlefield Commission, Kentucky Heritage Council, Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, Kentucky Department of Parks, city and county government, and the National Park Service; the lease is for ninety-nine years at \$1 per year. Should the Enhancement Project go out of existence, the leased buildings will transfer to the Kentucky Heritage Council. As Mayor Richardson put it, "This is a historic step. We are doing something that will protect this village for the years to come."

Edwin C. Bearss Responds to News of Ed Bearss Preservation Award: As reported by Roger Bohn in the September newsletter, the executive committee of the Chicago Civil War Round Table has voted unanimously to institute the Ed Bearss Preservation Award, an effort to honor our longtime friend and chief tour guide by promoting the preservation cause that he holds dear. The annual award of \$1000 will be given by the CWRT to a preservation organization/project of Ed's

choosing; the inaugural recipient will be announced during the 2002 battlefield tour. When informed of the award in August, Ed stated that he was "delighted" and "deeply honored." We are fortunate to be able to acknowledge his contributions in this fashion. Donations to our Battlefield Preservation Fund that specify the gift be used for this award are welcome; please contact any member of the BPF committee: Mary Abroe, Roger Bohn, Larry Gibbs, Rob Girardi, Nancy Jacobs, Marshall Krolick, Steve Stewart.

ITEMS

★ OF INTEREST ★

"Lincoln and the Legacy of Freedom" is the theme of the **Fifth Annual Lincoln Forum Symposium** on November 16-18 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Garry Wills, the winner of the 2001 Richard Nelson Current Award, will give the keynote address. Other speakers and panel participants include **Lerone Bennett, Jr., John Y. Simon, Michael Vorenberg, William Lee Miller, Barry Schwartz, Craig Symonds, John Marszalek, Edna Greene Medford, Gabor Boritt,** and the chair and co-chair of the Forum, **Judge Frank J. Williams and Harold Holzer.** For more information, see www.thelincolnforum.org or contact Annette Westerby at anetwest@uswest.net or 303-721-6681.

According to an e-mail message forwarded by Jerry Russell, the historical *New York Times* Digitization Project has online historic newspapers in digital form. Now available is Chapter 2: The Civil War Years, 1860-1866. What is unique about the site is the use of software that allows you to enlarge the size of the scanned image without downloading a special program. While not necessary for headlines, for the fuzzy print in columns, enlarging is very helpful. It's all free. You can register to be notified when additional chapters are added, but it's not required (www.nyt.ulib.org/).

A reminder from Registrar Carole LeClaire: All dues must be paid by November 1st in order to receive the November Newsletter.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

"Philip H. Sheridan: Form Clerk to Colonel!" was the topic of David C. Hinze on September 14 when he addressed 81 members and guests at the 603rd regular meeting of the Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Hinze drove with extraordinary effort from Rolla, Missouri, in order to be an emergency speaker due to the national crisis of September 11, 2001.

Hinze, a high school teacher in Rolla, is the author of *The Battle of Carthage* (Missouri). He manages Hinze Civil War Tours and will be a tour guide on this year's spring battlefield tour (May 2-6, 2002) of the Trans-Mississippi area. The focus of his presentation was on Sheridan's experiences in the western theatre of the Civil War and their influence on his subsequent career.

"Despite the fact that Philip H. Sheridan is one of the Union triumvirate that includes Ulysses S. Grant and William T. Sherman, Sheridan remains relatively obscure to Civil War enthusiasts," proclaimed Hinze. "There is a lot more to Phil Sheridan than the countercharge at the Battle of Cedar Creek." Sheridan was a very aggressive and well-organized general who developed his offensive strategy from Trans-Mississippi Civil War experiences.

Only 5 feet, 5 inches tall, Sheridan was physically unimpressive. President Abraham Lincoln stated that he had "no neck to hang him" and Sheridan's arms were long enough to scratch his ankle without bending over. His early training as a bookkeeper and accountant served him well. He graduated from West Point in 1853, and was in California as the war began, anxiously awaiting a chance for action.

He had met Henry Halleck in St. Louis and Halleck was impressed with Sheridan's accounting skills and promoted him. Hinze claimed, "The relationship with Halleck propelled Sheridan to Civil War heights of popularity." Assigned to be a quartermaster and in charge of the commissary, Sheridan was eventually under the command of General Samuel Curtis of the Union Army of the Southwest.

Sheridan procured vast amounts of supplies for horses, mules, and soldiers as the army advanced into southwestern Missouri and northeastern Arkansas in early 1862. Since each horse required fifteen pounds of grain and eighteen pounds of hay every day,

Sheridan's job was extremely important.

His men raided farms, foraging in a radius of one hundred miles of Springfield, Missouri. Union officer Frederick Benteen claimed that "Sheridan was the most ruthless man to gain food, grain, mules, and horses." This characteristic of Sheridan was evidenced in his later relentless destruction of the Confederate food supply in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 and his treatment of American Indians in the post-Civil War West.

During the 1862 campaign, Sheridan had some disagreements with General Curtis. He accused Curtis of obtaining horses illegally. Curtis countered with unsubstantiated charges against Sheridan. Curtis complained to General Halleck, but Halleck demanded, "Leave Sheridan alone!" Sheridan went on the Battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862, where he met General U.S. Grant, who gave Sheridan the responsibility of corduroying the roads.

Phil Sheridan performed well with his cavalry at the Battle of Booneville (Mississippi), south of Corinth. After this battle, he was promoted to a brigade command. He became a major general in 1864 and moved to the eastern theatre where he was very effective as chief of the Union cavalry.

Hinze concluded, "His loud, brash, profane, egotistical personality perhaps hurt his overall reputation but Sheridan represented the idea that many Union officers first obtained invaluable training in the Trans-Mississippi area before going east."

(Continued from front page)

"Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?"

From 1973-2001, he served on the Board of Trustees of Lincoln College, in Lincoln, Illinois, several years as chairman of the board. He continues to serve as board member emeritus of the college. Brooks Davis was a founding member of the South Suburban Chicago Civil War Round Table, and is a member of the American Civil War Round Table, United Kingdom (both the London and Liverpool groups). Currently chairman of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, he previously served that organization as president,

secretary, and treasurer.

He was a regent of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois from 1986-1998, and has served on the board of directors of the Abraham Lincoln Association since 1997. Illinois Governor George Ryan recently appointed Brooks Davis to the State of Illinois Military Flags Commission.

Brooks and Betsey Ross Davis are very involved in activities of the Episcopal Church in Chicago. He has served and continues to serve as a member and officer of numerous church committees and charitable organizations of the Episcopal Church.

Brooks served as chairman or co-chairman of several of this Round Table's annual battlefield tours and other historical tours. He has addressed the group on several occasions and has also made presentations to historical associations in this country and abroad.

The title of his acceptance speech will be "Stephen A. Douglas and Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?" He will follow the relationship of the two men from their first meeting in 1843 through Douglas's death in June of 1861.

PREVIOUS NEVINS-FREEMAN HONOREES

Bruce Carlton, 1974
 Ralph G. Newman, 1975
 T. Harry Williams, 1976
 Lloyd D. Miller, 1977
 Bell I. Wiley, 1978
 E.B. Long, 1979
 Edwin C. Bearss, 1980
 James I. Robertson, Jr., 1981
 Frank E. Vandiver, 1982
 John Hope Franklin, 1983
 Richard B. Harwell, 1984
 John Y. Simon, 1985
 Harold M. Hyman, 1986
 James T. Hickey, 1987
 Robert K. Krick, 1988
 Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1989
 Marshall D. Krolick, 1990
 Gary W. Gallagher, 1991
 Shelby Foote, 1992
 Stephen B. Oates, 1993
 Alan T. Nolan, 1994
 Richard N. Current, 1995
 James M. McPherson, 1996
 Wiley Sword, 1997
 William C. Davis, 1998
 David Herbert Donald, 1999
 Charles P. Roland, 2000

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Fahs, Alice. *The Imagined Civil War: Popular Literature of the North & South, 1861-1865*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 2001. \$39.95.
- Fellman, Michael. *The Making of Robert E. Lee*. Random House. 2000. \$29.95.
- Grabau, Warren E. *Ninety Eight Days: A Geographer's View of the Vicksburg Campaign*. U. of Tennessee Press. 2000. \$48.00.
- Hennessy, John J., ed. *Fighting with the 18th Massachusetts: The Civil War Letters of Thomas H. Mann*. LSU Press. 2000. \$34.95
- Holberton, William B. *Homeward Bound: The Demobilization of the Union and Confederate Armies, 1865-1866*. Stackpole Books. 2001. \$24.95.
- Holt, Michael F. *The Rise and Fall of the American Whig Party: Jacksonian Politics and the Onset of the Civil War*. Oxford U. Press. 1999. \$44.00.
- Hunt, Roger. *Colonels in Blue-Union Army Colonels of the Civil War. The New England States: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont*. Schieffer Publ. Col. 2001. \$59.95.
- Johansson, M. Jane, ed. *Widows by the Thousand: The Civil War Letters of Theophilus and Harriet Perry, 1862-1864*. U. of Arkansas Press. 2001. \$34.95.
- Jordan, Hill; James I. Robertson, Jr. and J.H. Segars, eds. *The Bell Irvin Wiley Reader*. LSU Press. 2000. \$65.00.
- Kennett, Lee. *Sherman: A Soldier's Life*. Harper Collins. 2001. \$30.00.
- Lynn, John W. *Confederate Commando and Fleet Surgeon (Dr. Daniel Burr Conrad)*. Burd Street Press. 2001. \$29.95.
- Mahin, Dean B. *One War at a Time: The International Dimension of the American Civil War*. Brassey's. 1999. \$27.95.
- Martin, Samuel J. *Southern Hero Matthew Calbraith Butler: Confederate General, Hampton Red Shirt and U.S. Senator*. Stackpole Books. 2001. \$24.95
- Miles, Jim. *Forged in Fire: A History and Tour Guide of the War in the East, From Manassas to Antietam, 1861-1862*. Cumberland House. 2000. \$24.95.

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.



McMurtry Lecture Rescheduled

The Lincoln Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana, issued the following announcement:

"Due to the recent tragic events across the country, the September 22, 2001, R. Gerald McMurtry Lecture, featuring Lerone Bennett, Jr., has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 30, 7:30 p.m.

"The scholarship of Lerone Bennett, Jr., focuses on a particularly controversial aspect of the history of Abraham Lincoln. The Museum and Mr. Bennett agree that in these weeks of mourning, our energies must be applied to healing our nation's current wounds, before we can resume the important but often painful work of exploring historical divisions in our social fabric, work that in the long term will lead only to greater unity."

For additional information, contact the Lincoln Museum at 219-455-1832 or thelincolnmuseum@inc.com.

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.

October 12: Brooks Davis, Nevins-Freeman Address: "Stephen A. Douglas & Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?"

November 6: Kathleen Ernst, "Too Afraid to Cry: Civilians at Antietam"

December 8: William McGrath, "Infernal Machines: The Sinking of the USS *Cairo*"

January 11, 2002: Daniel Weinberg, "Tattlings of a Collecting Voyeur"

February 8: Joe Davis, "The Battle at Shiloh"

March 8: Stephen Wise, "The United States Navy and the Confederate States Navy"

April 12: Jeffrey Wert, "Gettysburg: The Third Day"

May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour, Trans Mississippi

May 10: Ted Savas, "The Augusta Powder Works"

June 14: Eric Foner, "Reconstruction and its Significance in U.S. History"

NEW MEMBERS

Leroy A. Bender, 801 Lacrosse Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091, 847-251-8821, lbend@aol.com

Imelda M. Eisenbeis, 88 West Schiller, #2004, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-266-0046

David Kazenko, 376 Bunker Hill Circle, Aurora, IL 60504, 630-236-1790

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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