

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

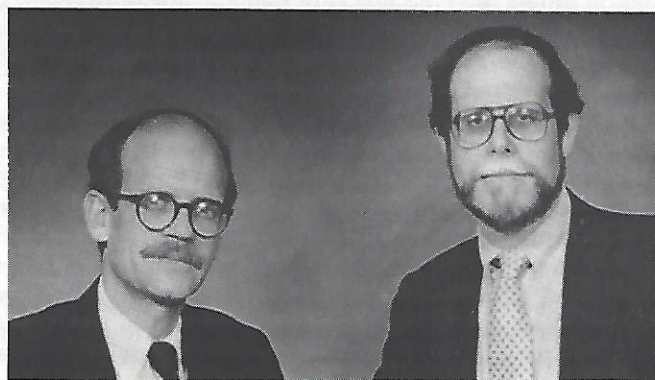
March, 1988

## Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Jr. on The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause

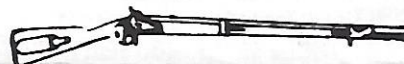
by C. Robert Douglas

While the Confederacy existed as a vital cause from 1861 to 1865, the people of the South were so distracted by war and so deficient in supplies that they missed the opportunity to create their new nation's heroes and heroic events. Only a few prints survived the war years and most prints of the Cause would not appear until after the Cause had been lost. For generations since, they have been hidden deep inside the archives of local historical societies, libraries and museums, naturally deteriorating physically as time passed. Too primitive to qualify as book illustrations, too fanciful to replace period photographs, their origins too confusing to suggest authentic local history, they were left to gather dust and were largely ignored.

For the first time since the Civil War ended, the Confederate 'Image' is rising again. A national traveling exhibition of 60 original prints bearing the title, "The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause," will be on display at locations such as the Cyclorama of the Gettysburg Battlefield National Historic Park and the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond. A book with the same title has been published by the University of North Carolina Press, and on March 11, The Round Table will have not one but two speakers to address us on this topic: Harold Holzer, one of the country's leading authorities on Lincoln and Civil War iconography, and Mark E. Neely, Jr., director of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. These two historians, along with Gabor S. Boritt, professor of Civil War studies at Gettysburg College, combined their talents to co-author the book just mentioned.



Mark E. Neely, Jr. and Harold Holzer



469th Regular Meeting

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Harold Holzer and  
Mark E. Neely, Jr.  
on

The Confederate Image:  
Prints of the Lost Cause

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Friday, March 11, 1988

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Quality Inn

Halsted and Madison

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

\$15.00 per person

Entree: Roast Sirloin of Beef Bordelaise,  
Fish, or Fruit Plate



The origins of these images are particularly ironic. Though these pictures may have decorated Southern homes, they were made almost exclusively in Northern shops. In many of the cities where they will be exhibited, they have never before been seen. In other places, they have not been seen for generations. They depict how a people braved a tragic struggle for independence and how they survived their failure. Admittedly, they do not represent great art, but as a collection they are great symbols.

A native of New York City, Mr. Holzer secured his B.A. degree from Queens College of the City University of New York. As a public affairs specialist, he currently serves in the administration of New York Governor Mario Cuomo, in the position of Senior Vice President for Public Affairs at the State Urban Development Corporation, the country's largest public development authority. He concurrently holds the title of Special Counselor to the State Department of Economic Development.

Since 1974, he has written dozens of articles for popu-  
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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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 John Peterson, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.



**The Blackhorse Cavalry Reenactment group** is looking for recruits. Reenactments are held during the summer months (June to September) and most events take place within a three hour drive of Chicago. Families of members of the group are encouraged to get involved as well. The Blackhorse Cavalry, which was begun in Cincinnati, is known as one of the best reenactment units. For further information, contact Warner Todd Huston, 3901 W. 115th Pl., 1st Floor N., Alsip, IL 60658 (312) 396-1375.

## Battlefield Preservation Report

by Daniel J. Josephs

Last month the Chantilly battlefield situation was examined. Although a large portion of the battlefield there was lost to commercial development, at least a small portion is going to be preserved to commemorate the soldiers, both Northerners and Southerners, who fought and died there.

Unfortunately, the preservationists who are attempting to preserve the battlefield area on South Mountain in Maryland have not been so successful. The South Mountain battlefield area encompasses approximately 2,000 acres and is comprised of three mountain passes: Fox's Gap, Crampton's Gap, and Turner's Gap, which were the scenes of fierce fighting in September of 1862, at the beginning of the Antietam Campaign. South Mountain today is a beautiful area, inhabited by 47 property owners, according to the *Morning Herald* of Hagerstown, Maryland (Nov. 13, 1987 issue). Some property owners are residing in homes that are nearly 200 years old. There is no actual battlefield park on South Mountain. According to the *Sun* newspaper, there are only three battlefield markers on South Mountain.

Local residents have preserved the area. Unfortunately, the same massive commercial and urban development that has emanated from the Washington, D.C. area and that has threatened and/or engulfed the battlefields at Chantilly and Manassas now threatens both the lifestyle of these property owners and the battlefield areas. Residents of the area have formed a group called the South Mountain Citizens Association. Battlefield advocates have also banded together. Unfortunately, the two groups have clashed in their respective fights to preserve and protect the area from commercial and urban development. The county, state and federal governments do not own any land on South Mountain. The zoning of the area is changing and building is going on.

The battlefield advocates attempted to win for South Mountain a federal landmark designation in the National Register of Historic Places this past fall. According to the November 13, 1987 issue of the *Frederick Post*, most of the 47 property owners sent letters to the National Park Service stating their opposition to the proposal to designate the area a national historic landmark. According to the rules of the National Park Service as stated in the *Post*, an area cannot receive historic landmark designation if the majority of the residents indicate opposition. The *Morning Herald* on November 13, 1987 reported that the National Park Service recommended that these three mountain passes "remain eligible for National Historic landmark status." An acting historian with the National Park Service was quoted in the *Herald* as saying that the Advisory Board would not be requested "to reconsider the landmark designation unless the NPS was sure that a majority of owners would support it. The NPS would look for notarized letters indicating the residents' support." About 30 of the 47 owners indicated opposition.

The *Frederick Post* stated on November 13, 1987 that there were three major reasons for the owners' objections. One was the increased tourist traffic in the area resulting from the designation. A second reason was the fear that landmark designation would result in limitations on the use of the area imposed by the federal government. A third reason was the residents' fear that the landmark designation would be a step toward possible acquisition of land for a national park. It is not likely that a park could ever be established on South Mountain. Hopefully, however, the area can be protected from commercial development.



## February Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

February 12, 1988 was the 179th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. On this occasion, noted Lincoln scholar and author Dr. William Hanchett spoke about "Abraham Lincoln—Man In The Middle" before 132 members and guests at the 468th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Dr. Hanchett, professor of history at San Diego State University, has written a number of books and articles on the Civil War period, including *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies* (1983).

Dr. Hanchett, whose interest in Lincoln dates back to the time when, as a child growing up in Evanston, his mother took him to see the Lincoln exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society, said that, as president during the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln led from the middle. "He had to," Dr. Hanchett asserted, "for not only was the United States divided into warring sections, the section he led was subdivided into powerful and hostile interests whose support he had to have." Lincoln had to hold a middle ground, and accomplish a near-miraculous performance of balanced political leadership in order to win the war.

"It is very conceivable," Dr. Hanchett allowed, "that there were a number of extreme partisans who had reason to want to get rid of Lincoln. The man in the middle was, potentially, the man in the middle of the bullseye." John Wilkes Booth was typical of someone who would act on his convictions. Born in Maryland and educated in private schools in Baltimore, he acquired the tastes of a Southern aristocrat, as well as very strong pro-slavery views. Outspoken in his criticism of the Lincoln administration, he was arrested by the military police in St. Louis in the spring of 1862, allegedly for saying he "wished the whole damn government would go to hell," but more likely because he was on close terms with many Confederate sympathizers in the city.

After the fall of Atlanta in the summer of 1864, Booth realized that only extreme measures would save the country from what he saw as its "Black Republican" president and his dictatorship. His first plan was to kidnap the president and hold him as ransom for the freedom of tens of thousands of Southern prisoners of war held in the North, thereby providing much needed manpower for the Confederacy. He had even filled a trunk with potted meats, crackers, clothing, and other items for Lincoln's use while he was being held as hostage, and had it shipped to lower Maryland where he would pick it up. However, a March 17, 1865 attempt was foiled due to Lincoln's not attending a function at a military hospital where he had been expected. At some point thereafter, his thoughts turned to murder. After hearing a speech of Lincoln's on April 11 favoring enfranchisement of literate Black men and those who had fought in the war, Booth commented, "That means nigger citizenship. Now, by God, I'll put him through. That is the last speech he will ever make." When he learned, upon picking up his mail at Ford's Theater on April 14 that both Lincoln and Grant were scheduled to attend that evening's performance, his new plan was set in motion. He and his co-conspirators would kill not only Lincoln and Grant, but Johnson, Seward, and possibly Stanton, as well, thus bringing down the entire U.S. government and buying some time for the South to regroup. Although Lincoln was killed and Seward seriously wounded, the rest of the hastily arranged plot failed, and Booth was an outcast to both North and South.

Dr. Hanchett spoke about the anti-Radical Revisionist movement during the first half of this century, which sought to slant history against the Radicals, and of certain authors who tried to place blame for Lincoln's assassination on Radical leaders. He mentioned Otto Eisenschiml, whose writings in the 1930s through the 1950s contained accusations against Secretary of War Stanton. He said that Eisenschiml stretched and twisted facts and, with a lot of imagination, performed an atrocious disservice to the reputation of Secretary Stanton. Point by point, Dr. Hanchett disproved the theories of Eisenschiml.

In recent years, there has been a major shift in how we look at Reconstruction and the Radicals. During the Civil Rights revolution of the 1960s, the nation was torn by some of the same conflicts it experienced in the post-Civil War period. "The intrusion of the federal government in areas traditionally reserved for the states in order to bring about the equality of all citizens," Dr. Hanchett noted, "was precisely what the Radical Republicans had attempted 100 years before. These long-maligned leaders now seemed more heroic." "Their object," he added, "had not been to punish or humiliate the South, but to safeguard the results of the war and to give meaning to the freedom of Southern Blacks." Dr. Hanchett has found that a fresh examination of the sources shows that, on these vital matters, there had been no major differences between Lincoln and the Radicals. Dr. Hanchett concluded his talk by saying that "Lincoln's life was never in danger from the Radicals. To maintain the contrary, without any evidence, is to distort the nature of controversy within the Republican party and to libel the reputations of men who struggled valiantly with Lincoln to achieve the great ends represented by a Union victory. It was not the loyal opposition who killed Lincoln, it was the disloyal."

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lar magazines as well as scholarly journals, and has lectured widely on Lincoln portraiture. With Neely and Boritt, he co-authored *The Lincoln Image: Abraham Lincoln and the Popular Print* (1984), a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize in history. These three authors collaborated again on a 1985 sequel, *Changing the Lincoln Image*, and a 1986 article, "The European Image of Abraham Lincoln."

Holzer is also the author of the 1984 booklet, *Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln*. He recently edited *Books at Brown: Lincoln and Lincolniana*, a collection of papers, including his own, delivered at the June, 1984 Brown University-Lincoln Group of Boston Symposium on the subject, "Lincoln and the American Political Tradition."

A Texan by birth, Dr. Neely received his B.A. degree in American studies (Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude) and his Ph.D. in American history from Yale University, as well as an honorary degree from Lincoln College in 1981. Before assuming his duties at the Lincoln Library and Museum, he served as a visiting instructor in the history department of Iowa State University. Books he has written include *The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia* (1982), and *The Insanity File: The Case of Mary Todd Lincoln* (with R. Gerald McMurry, 1986). Currently, he is at work on a book to be titled, *Abraham Lincoln and the Constitution: The Fate of Civil Liberties in a Time of Total War*. He is also the author of numerous articles.



## The New Books

compiled by Dick Clark



## BULLETIN BOARD



Mosby, John S. *The Letters of John S. Mosby*. Carlisle, Pa. Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, 1986. 294 p., illus., facsim. Already out of print.

Mosman, Chesley A. *The Rough Side of War: The Civil War Journal of Chesley A. Mosman, 1st Lieutenant, Company D, 59th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1862-1866*. Introduction by Arnold Gates. Garden City, NY: Basin Publishing Company, 1987. \$25.00.

Myers, Robert Manson, ed. *The Children of Pride*. Selected Letters of the Family of Rev. Dr. Charles Colcock Jones from the years 1860-1868, with the addition of several previously unpublished letters. New abridged edition. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1987. pbk. \$14.95.

Nichols, Edward J. *Toward Gettysburg: A Biography of General John F. Reynolds*. Gaithersburg, MD: Butternut Press, 1986. \$30.00. Original of 1954 from Penn. State U.

*Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army for the Years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65*. 4 vols. Gaithersburg, MD: Ron R. Van Sickle Military Books, 1987. \$150.

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**The Second Annual Deep Delta Civil War Symposium** will be held June 24-26 at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, Louisiana. Among the speakers considering "The Confederate High Command: Papers in Honor of T. Harry Williams" will be Thomas L. Connelly, Herman M. Hattaway, Archie P. McDonald, Richard Sommers, Emory Thomas, and Frank E. Vandiver. The cost of the symposium is \$80, not including lodging. For further information, write: Deep Delta Civil War Symposium, P.O. Box 590, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA 70402.

**The 125th Anniversary Re-enactment of the Battle of Gettysburg** will be held June 24-26. On the 24th, more than 250 troopers and a battery of horse artillery will re-create the "Opening Action on McPhersons Ridge." On the 25th, 400 troopers and a dozen mounted cannon will re-create "The Third Day Cavalry Action." Later that day there will be a re-creation of the battle at "The Wheatfield." On June 26, 8000 soldiers and 100 cannons will re-enact "Pickett's Charge." Tickets for all three days are \$15. To order, call (717) 334-0631.

**"The Bloodiest Day: The origins, conduct and impact of the 1862 Maryland Campaign"** will be the subject of a conference at Penn State/Mont Alto June 9-12. Featured speakers will be Gary Gallagher, Robert Krick, Jay Luvaas, Dennis Frye and Wilson Greene. The registration fee of \$325 includes lodging, meals, local transportation and receptions. For further information and registration, contact: Penn State/Mont Alto Campus, Continuing Education, Mont Alto, PA 17237. Participation is limited to the first 90 registrants.

### Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

March 11: Harold Holzer and Mark Neely on "The Confederate Image: Prints of the Lost Cause."

April 8: Michael Snyder on "The Battle of Seven Pines."

April 28-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chancellorsville.

May 13: Gerald F. Linderman on "The Experience of Combat in the Civil War."

June 10: Edward Longacre on "The Army of the James."

### New members

Maurice Dickenson, 6808 N. Lehigh, Chicago, IL 60646 (312) 631-8072.

Steven D. Hogeorges, 5011 N. Rockwell, Chicago, IL 60625 (312) 275-5535.

John J. Lapinski, 263 Timber View Dr., Oakbrook, IL 60521 (312) 832-4759.

William A. McNickle, 1636 N. Wells, Chicago, IL 60614 (312) 944-4236.

Thomas Murray, 815 W. Belle Plaine, Chicago, IL 60613 (312) 348-6940.

Scott T. Smith, 1112 W. North Shore #8, Chicago, IL 60626 (312) 262-4246.

Jane Study, 106 S. Kenilworth, Apt. 2R, Oak Park, IL 60302 (312) 383-1358.

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**A bus tour tracing the route** of Confederate General Jubal A. Early's move on Washington in July, 1864 will be held on March 26. Led by Dr. B.F. Cooling, the tour will visit the Monocacy Battlefields and Fort Stevens, among other sites. The cost of the tour is \$35, which includes lunch. For further information, call (202) 838-4848.

That same day the Smithsonian is offering two tours: "Stuart Versus Pleasanton: The Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign" led by Ted Alexander, and "Petersburg: The Last Battleground" led by Ed Bearss. For further information about these call (202) 357-3030.

**The Madison (Wisconsin) History Round Table** is sponsoring a tour of the Shiloh and Corinth battlefields June 5-8, 1988. The cost is \$175 single and \$250 double, which includes accommodations, meals and transportation in the field, but not transportation to Tennessee. For further information, call (608) 835-7954 after 6 p.m.

**Fellow member Charles Wesselhoeft** addressed the Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table on February 5. His topic was "Railroads in the Civil War." On March 4 Henry Pomerantz will speak to them on "Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville."