

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

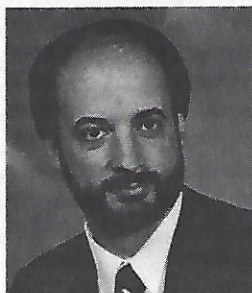
January 1991

Nevins-Freeman Address: Marshall D. Krolick on "Forgotten Field: The Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863"

by Barbara Hughett

The Nevins-Freeman Award, named in honor of historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table in 1974. It is conferred each year to recognize individuals for their contributions to the preservation of our nation's heritage and to our understanding of the past, especially the years 1861-1865. For 1990, The Round Table's fiftieth anniversary year, the Awards Committee selected one of our own, Marshall D. Krolick.

While the award was conferred on Marshall at the 494th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on October 12th, as part of The Round Table's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, his formal acceptance address will be delivered at the 497th regular meeting on January 11th. The topic of that address will be "Forgotten Field: The Cavalry Battle at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863."



As the Army of Northern Virginia moved northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania during the summer of 1863, its advance was greatly hindered by the absence of the major portion of its cavalry. These troopers had separated from the main army when their commander, J.E.B. Stuart, acting within the discretion of his orders, took them off on a ride around the Federal positions.

Stuart and his cavalry rejoined the army of Robert E. Lee after the Battle of Gettysburg had already begun. On July 3rd, Stuart was ordered around the Confederate left in an attempt to attack the Union rear as the famed assault of Pickett, Pettigrew, and Trimble advanced against the Federal center.

In the fields along the Hanover Road, three miles east of the town, Stuart unexpectedly met the Union troopers of David Gregg's division and George Custer's brigade. The resulting clash involved some of the fiercest and most dramatic fighting of any cavalry battle of the Civil War. Yet today, the area of this action, now known as "East Cavalry Field," is truly a "Forgotten Field."

As thousands of tourists visit the many sites at Gettysburg each year, few, if any, find their way to, or even know of



497th Regular Meeting

Marshall D. Krolick
Nevins-Freeman Address

Friday, January 11, 1991

Quality Inn

Halsted at Madison

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

\$16 per person

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

Please note: The January meeting is being held at our usual site, the Quality Inn, as will the meetings for the remainder of the year. You are encouraged to make your reservations by noon on the Thursday before the meeting. Either mail the enclosed reservation card or call the Book Shop, at (312)944-3085.

the peaceful acres which, on that fateful day, resounded with the blare of the trumpet and the clash of the saber. This is not as it should be for, without question, the Union success there played a key role, not only in the Federal success at Gettysburg, but in the continuing development and superiority of the Union troopers.

Marshall Krolick has been an active and contributing member of The Civil War Round Table since 1961. He has served as president, treasurer, and battlefield tour chairman, and was editor of the newsletter for five and one-half years. He created the dinner meeting quiz, now a well-established tradition, which made its debut in September of 1968.

A partner in the law firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel, he received his bachelor's degree from Drake University and his J.D. from Northwestern University. He enjoys a national reputation as an expert on the Battle of Gettysburg

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610
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 Dan Weinberg, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.

The Civil War Round Table of New York will celebrate its fortieth anniversary on January 16th. The meeting will feature an address by Shelby Foote. We congratulate the New York Round Table as it enters its fifth decade.

Although the national media reported that Daisy Cave, who died recently at the age of 99, was the last surviving Confederate widow, according to the November/December issue of *The Civil War News*, there are at least five surviving widows of Civil War veterans—one Confederate and four Union. A sixth, 83-year old Alberta Martin, claims to be the widow of a Confederate soldier. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs spokesman Bill Jayne thinks her claim is probably valid; but since she remarried and never applied for benefits, the Department's records are incomplete.

Battlefield Preservation Report

by Mary Munsell Abroe

The recently approved project to study Shenandoah Valley Civil War sites and to assess the feasibility of establishing a national battlefield park in the area moves ahead quickly. Gary Gallagher and Edwin Bearss have been appointed to lead the study; they made their first tour of the Valley, in conjunction with this task, during the week of December 10th. The commitment of both Gary and Ed to meticulous scholarship and to the preservation of our tangible Civil War heritage will be an invaluable asset throughout the process; we wish them well in the work ahead. As of yet, no announcement has been made regarding the composition of the thirteen-member national Civil War Sites Advisory Commission authorized by Congress in late October.

Due to the combined efforts of preservation organizations and private citizens, most of the significant land at McDowell—site of the first of Stonewall Jackson's string of victories during the 1862 Valley Campaign—has been protected. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites reports its purchase of 120-plus acres of battlefield land and the donation of almost nine acres of scenic easements; this comprises the group's largest acquisition to date. In announcing this success story, the APCWS acknowledged the cooperation of three local landowners as crucial; we, too, express our gratitude to Ms. Frances Rives, Mr. Oscar Driver, and Judge Richard Williams. The Association's holdings are on Sitlington's Hill, location of most of the Confederate battle positions. The Lee-Jackson Foundation owns about 150 acres at McDowell, including a significant portion of the Union line and land between the opposing forces. As noted in the December issue of *Hallowed Ground*, newsletter of the APCWS, the combined holdings of these two groups "make McDowell the largest battlefield preserve in the Shenandoah Valley."

During a recent telephone interview, Will Greene of the APCWS related news of yet another land acquisition in the Valley—this one by Virginia Military Institute. VMI, which administers New Market Battlefield Park, has purchased twenty acres at Shirley's Hill, south of the battlefield and scene of the first casualties suffered by VMI cadets during the battle. Once the tract's availability became known, VMI moved quickly and used funds from its operating budget to complete the \$153,000 purchase. Greene congratulated VMI on its expeditious action; he indicated as well that the APCWS has donated \$5000 to VMI to help replenish that portion of its operating funds used to acquire Shirley's Hill.

During its short existence, the APCWS has shown itself to be a diligent and highly effective actor in Civil War battlefield preservation. In recognition of this fact, the Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table voted at its December 15th meeting to support APCWS efforts through the purchase of a \$1000 Life Membership; funds are at hand presently, having been accumulated expressly for battlefield preservation through the monthly book raffle. We congratulate the Association on its achievements thus far, and offer our assistance in the important work that lies ahead.

Former Round Table President Paul I. Klinger, chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee, was named an Honorary Life member of The Civil War Round Table. The honor was conferred on Paul by Don Anderson, chairman of the Honors Committee, at the November 9th meeting.

December Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

"The most remarkable circumstance of this campaign was that it was conducted by a general who had never fought a battle, who had a pious horror of guerrillas, and whose extreme tenderness of blood induced him to depend exclusively upon the resources of strategy to essay the achievement of victory without the cost of life." With these words, Edward A. Pollard, editor of the *Richmond Examiner*, described Robert E. Lee's unsuccessful effort to reverse the fortunes of the Confederacy in the autumn of 1861. "Granny Lee: Fiasco in Western Virginia" was the topic of C. Robert Douglas on December 14th, when he spoke before 92 members and guests at the 496th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table.

Now in his fortieth year of membership, Bob Douglas has served The Round Table in many capacities. President for the 1960-1961 term, he has also served as vice president and battlefield tour chairman. He was treasurer for five years and has been a member of the newsletter staff for over seven years. For several years, he wrote the page-one article and currently prepares "The New Books" column.

After a review of the early life and career of Robert E. Lee, Douglas focused on the 1861 campaign in western Virginia. Less than a month after Virginia seceded from the Union on April 17th, its westernmost counties had become a battleground. In defiance of Confederate authorities, the mountainous western counties seceded from Virginia on July 11th, with intent to join the Union. Union General George B. McClellan was sent into the region with a force of 20,000. To oppose this threat, the Confederacy sent General Robert S. Garnett and 4500 men. On July 6th, McClellan began an advance on Garnett's positions on Rich Mountain. In actions there on July 11th, Union attacks pushed rebel forces off the crest. During the retreat, Garnett was killed. General Robert E. Lee left Richmond on July 28th to assume command in western Virginia, with directions from Confederate President Jefferson Davis "to strike a decisive blow at the enemy in that quarter; or, failing in that, . . . to organize and post our troops so as to check the enemy."

After first stopping at the Monterey headquarters of General Henry R. Jackson, now in charge of Garnett's shattered and demoralized troops, Lee moved on to Huntersville, the site of General William W. Loring's headquarters. According to Loring's adjutant general, A. L. Long: "The arrival of Lee at Huntersville as commander of the department took Loring by surprise. Having been his superior in the old army, he could not repress a feeling of jealousy." Loring expressed his displeasure at seeing Lee. "Not two weeks had passed," Douglas noted, "since Lee had given Loring discretionary orders in Richmond and had sent him forward. Now—before Loring had developed his plans—here was Lee to ensure that he did his duty." Though Loring intended to advance, he was determined to establish a base at Huntersville and stock it adequately with supplies before he would advance. Instead of prodding Loring forward, Lee tried to conciliate him. For four days, Lee waited on Loring; for four days, Loring waited on his wagon train. Growing desperate, Lee set out on August 6th for Valley Mountain.

Lee attempted to find an alternative to marching down into Tygart's Valley, straight into the mouth of Federal guns. He searched for an obscure trail to the rear of Cheat Mountain. The weather did not make his search an easy one. By August 10th, twenty days of rain had passed and the roads

were bottomless in mud. Wagons could be moved only step-by-step and then only with great difficulty. An epidemic of measles spread through the ranks, bringing men down by the hundreds and provoking a multitude of intestinal ailments.

By August 12th, the Confederate forces—including Loring's—were all gathered at Valley Mountain; but the Federal troops were aware that Lee was facing them. Lee's men were hungry, sickly, and ill-clothed for the inclement weather. With the help of a civilian engineer, Lee discovered a way in which he might be able to wage a successful surprise attack, striking at Federal positions on the crest of Cheat Mountain and on the western side of the crest simultaneously. The date set for the advance was September 12th, with troop movements beginning on the 9th. The attack was not successful. Fumbling on the part of Colonel Albert Rust, who led the assault on the crest, contributed to the Confederate failure. Lee attributed the outcome to the rain and the will of God.

Lee's first campaign had ended ingloriously. The *Richmond Dispatch* warned him that "in mountain warfare, the learning of the books and of the strategists is of little value." By the time he returned to Richmond in late October, his prestige had suffered greatly. Cynics referred to him as "Granny Lee," implying that his reputation was based on his impressive presence and historic name rather than on abilities as a field commander. But, since the most important thing is what one learns from mistakes and what changes are made from what is learned, this disastrous campaign cannot be considered a total loss for Lee. As events of the next few years would prove, Robert E. Lee had learned a great deal from his experience in western Virginia in the autumn of 1861.

Karen K. Osborne, who has addressed The Round Table on three occasions, has written a book, published by Blue & Grey Chap Books of Milwaukee. *Mother Bickerdyke: Civil War Mother to the Boys* tells the story of Mary Ann Bickerdyke, who stood up to all the generals during the Civil War to defend the needs of the ordinary soldiers, who might be ill or wounded. Tirelessly, she moved with the armies of the Union to continue her nursing duties and seek the improvement of sanitary conditions. Her efforts won the respect of many officers, including Generals Grant and Sherman. The 96-page, limited edition (500 copies) miniature book (2-7/8 by 2-1/4 inches) with hand-sewn binding is a collector's item. To order a copy, at the pre-publication price (until January 30th) of \$29.70 (plus \$1.25 for postage and handling), send a check to Clifford L. Helbert, P.O. Box 97, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

The Third Annual Mid-Atlantic Conference of Civil War Round Tables will be held in Philadelphia on April 20th. Sponsored by the Old Baldy Civil War Round Table and the Civil War Library and Museum, the theme this year is "The Chancellorsville Campaign." For information, write the Civil War Library and Museum, 1805 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

"Ironclads," a movie about the battle between the Merrimac and the Monitor, was recently produced by the Turner Broadcasting System. Many scenes were shot in and around Richmond. It is tentatively scheduled to air in March over the TNT cable television channels.

The New Books

compiled by C. Robert Douglas



McFeely, Mary Drake & William S. McFeely, ed. *Ulysses S. Grant: Memoirs and Selected Letters*. Library of America. 1990. \$35.00. Original of 1885.

McGee, Charles M., Jr. & Ernest McPherson Lander, Jr., eds. *A Rebel Came Home: The Diary and Letters of Floride Clemson, 1863-1866*. University of South Carolina Press. 1989. \$22.95.

Roland, Charles P. *The American Iliad: The Story of the Civil War*. University Press of Kentucky. 1990. \$30.00.

Royster, Charles, ed. *William Tecumseh Sherman: Memoirs*. Library of America. 1990. \$35.00. Original of 1875.

The history of The Round Table, The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship, by Barbara Hughett, which made its debut at the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, is available at \$30 per copy. You may order the book by writing The Round Table (add \$3 for postage and handling), or purchase a copy at the January meeting or at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 357 West Chicago Avenue.

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and Union Cavalry operations, and frequently speaks to historical groups across the country.

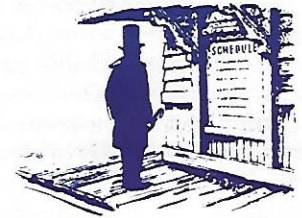
Marshall has written numerous articles for historical magazines and journals. He contributed an introduction to the Morningside Press reprint of Abner Hard's *History of the Eighth Cavalry Regiment, Illinois Volunteers during the Great Rebellion* (1984). His article entitled "The Promotions of the Boy Generals" appeared in the July-August 1990 issue of *Civil War, the Magazine of the Civil War Society*. Marshall is currently editing the manuscript of a trooper in the Eighth New York Cavalry as well as the papers of William Brook-Rawle, an officer in the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry.

A Round Table speaker on several occasions throughout the years, Marshall served as master-of-ceremonies at the Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner this past October 12th, as well as providing some reminiscences of his years of involvement in the organization. He last addressed The Round Table in January of 1987, when his topic was "Captain to Brigadier: The Promotions of Custer, Farnsworth, and Merritt." The Round Table is very proud to have bestowed its highest honor, the Nevins-Freeman Award, on Marshall D. Krolick, who has contributed so much to Civil War scholarship and to The Civil War Round Table.

Nevins-Freeman Honorees

Bruce Catton, 1974	Frank E. Vandiver, 1982
Ralph G. Newman, 1975	John Hope Franklin, 1983
T. Harry Williams, 1976	Richard B. Harwell, 1984
Lloyd D. Miller, 1977	John Y. Simon, 1985
Bell I. Wiley, 1978	Harold M. Hyman, 1986
E.B. Long, 1979	James T. Hickey, 1987
Edwin C. Bearss, 1980	Robert K. Krick, 1988
James I. Robertson, Jr. 1981	Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1989

BULLETIN BOARD



Future Meetings

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

January 11, 1991: Marshall Krolick, Nevins-Freeman Address.

February 8: Terry Winschel on "To Rescue Gibraltar: Efforts of the Trans-Mississippi Confederates to Relieve Fortress Vicksburg."

March 8: Gerald A. Regan on "The 'Walk' of Correspondents Browne, Davis, and Richardson: 340 Miles to Freedom."

April 12: A. Wilson Greene on "The 11th Corps on the First Day at Gettysburg."

May 2-5: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shiloh.

May 10: Michael Hughes on "The Battle of Chattanooga."

June 14: Jean Baker on "Mary Todd Lincoln."

New Members

Nicholas Chentis, 4173 W. Fletcher St., Chicago, IL 60641, (312)282-9431

Ellen M. Hill, 841 N. Main St., Rockford, IL 61103, (815)963-8213

Captain David W. Howe, 8038 Wayside Trail, San Antonio, TX 78244, (512)666-3643

Hugh M. Martin, 33 Tuttle Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL 60514, (708)887-1121

R. Michael Yost, 713 W. Grand River, Howell, MI 48843, (517)546-7522

Changes of Address

Stephen C. Susemichel, 190 Linden Tree Rd., Wilton, CT 06897, (203)352-5306

William C. Vinck, 5942 Joanne Dr., #204, Racine, WI 53406

The Eighteenth Annual Lincoln Symposium and Banquet of the Abraham Lincoln Association will be held in Springfield on Tuesday, February 12th. The afternoon symposium will feature addresses by Douglas Wilson and Charles B. Strozier, with comments by Rodney O. Davis. The discussion will focus on Lincoln's law partner and biographer William H. Herndon; the year 1991 marks the centennial of Herndon's death. The speaker for the evening banquet will be Tom Wicker, *New York Times* columnist and author of *Unto This Hour* (1984), a novel about the Second Battle of Manassas.

Other events in Springfield that day, in honor of Lincoln's birthday, include the presentation of the annual Lincoln Heritage Lectures, sponsored by the Lincoln Home National Historic Site. This year's lectures will be given by Mark E. Neely, Jr. and James Stevenson. The program begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center. For further information on these events, call the Abraham Lincoln Association (217/782-4836) and the Lincoln Home National Historic Site (217/492-4150).