

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

September 1993

## William A. Young, Jr., on "Pickett's Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend First Lieutenant George W. Finley"

by Barbara Hughett

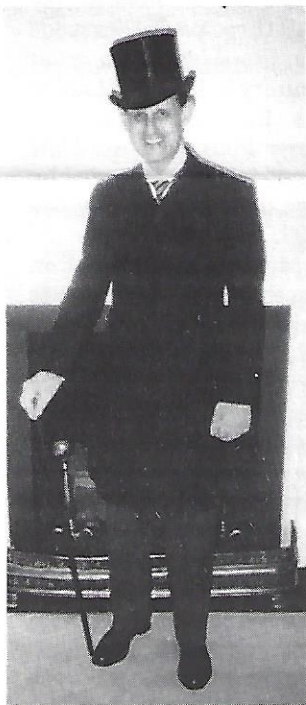
The men of the 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment were ordinary civilians who came from all walks of life. The raw recruits, who were learning to be soldiers at Richmond's Camp Lee in July of 1861, were seasoned veterans two years later.

The 56th was part of the spearhead that General Robert E. Lee hurled at Cemetery Ridge on the third day at Gettysburg. The regiment went straight up the middle, covered itself with glory, and was almost annihilated. The 56th Virginia fought its last battle at Hatcher's Run on March 31, 1865. Only a handful of men survived that battle; some of them joined other regiments and fought on to Appomattox.

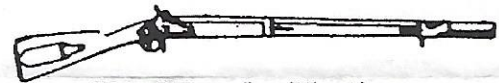
One of the finest accounts of Pickett's charge on the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg was written by one of the participants—First Lieutenant George W. Finley, of Company K, 56th Virginia, Garnett's Brigade, Pickett's Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Lieutenant Finley was captured on the Gettysburg battlefield, at Cemetery Ridge, and spent two years in Federal prisons. After the war, he became a Presbyterian minister.

On September 10, William A. Young, Jr., will open The Round Table's 1993-94 season with a presentation of his first-person impression of Finley. Through the dramatic words of Finley's account, Young will tell the story of Pickett's Charge. He will be dressed as the Reverend Finley might have appeared in 1893, when he was fifty-three years old, looking back thirty years to his participation in the Battle of Gettysburg.

A native of the former Confederate capital, William A. Young, Jr., is a trial lawyer with the Richmond firm of Williams, Mullen, Christian & Dobbins, in . He is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond School of Law. He is the coauthor, with his wife Patsy, of *56th Virginia Infantry Regiment*, the history of the regiment, for the



William A. Young, Jr.



### 523rd Regular Meeting

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William A. Young, Jr., on "Pickett's Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend First Lieutenant George W. Finley"

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Friday, September 10

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza  
350 North Orleans Street  
Buttons—15th floor

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$20.00 per person

Entree: Sliced Roast Round of Beef, Bordelaise Sauce, Orange Roughy, or Fruit Plate



### A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, September 8. Mail the enclosed postcard or call the book shop at (312) 944-3085.

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 free.

Virginia Regimental Histories Series. The Youngs are members of the Richmond Civil War Round Table.

Young has written and illustrated two books about scouting—*Once A Scout* and *Trailing the Eagle*—which are distributed nationwide by the Boy Scouts of America. He has also written articles for major Civil War publications, including *Blue & Gray* and *America's Civil War*. He serves on the executive boards of the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center, the Virginia Writers Club, and the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

## 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.

**Round Table founder Ralph G. Newman** will deliver the keynote address at "The Lincoln and Gettysburg Symposium," to be held on November 19-20 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Cosponsored by Civil War Round Table Associates and HistoryAmerica Tours, the event commemorates the 130th anniversary of President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Other speakers include John Y. Simon, Harold Holzer, Blake Magner, Lloyd Ostendorf, Frank J. Williams, Terry Winschel, and Robert Younger. For information, call Jerry Russell, symposium chair, at 501-225-3996.

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, which has spent the last two years visiting dozens of battlefields in eleven states and taking testimony from more than 150 members of the public, presented its report to Congress in July. It found that of 384 Civil War battlefields, 71 have been lost to urban and commercial development and nearly half of the remainder are in serious danger of partial or total destruction within the next ten years.

The 384 battlefields were listed by priority, beginning with the most threatened sites. The inventory cites military importance, the level of developmental threat, and what level of integrity remains at the battlefield. The presence of special circumstances that would offer unique interpretive opportunities was also considered.

The commission has recommended to Congress the passage of a Civil War Heritage Preservation Act. The act is intended to help preserve battlefields by matching grants to states and private preservation groups, and by tax credits to private owners for land donations or preservation easements. The study itself was commissioned by Congress and cost just over \$1 million. The 14-member commission was made up of historians, preservationists, and representatives of business, politics, the media, and public relations. One of the commission's most important accomplishments was the mapping of nearly all the battlefields in the inventory, identifying core areas and showing troop movements.

**The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS)** has launched a capital campaign to preserve two Civil War battlefields near Richmond. "The Campaign to Save Malvern Hill/Glendale" is the largest grassroots fundraising project in behalf of battlefield preservation in American history.

In May, the APCWS signed options to purchase some 750 acres of the Malvern Hill and Glendale Battlefields. The property consists of three contiguous parcels held by one private owner. The total price for all three parcels exceeds \$2 million. To exercise its options, the Association must make a payment of \$288,000 on January 8, 1994, and seven subsequent semiannual payments through July 1997 to complete the acquisition. The Gilder Foundation of New York City has announced a challenge to meet this goal by pledging one dollar for every three dollars raised by the APCWS through December 31, 1993.

The battles of Glendale and Malvern Hill, fought on June 30 and July 1, 1862, comprise the final engagements of the Seven Days' Battles. At Glendale (or Frayser's Farm), Federal rear guard action parried ferocious Southern attacks that sought to destroy the Army of the Potomac. The next day, Unionists used superb defensive terrain at Malvern Hill to their advantage as Lee threw his divisions against the bulk of the Northern army. The Association's purchase includes virtually all of the Confederate battle lines and attack routes at Malvern Hill, and both Union and Confederate positions at Glendale.

Upon completion of the purchase, the APCWS intends to donate the property to the Richmond National Battlefield Park for public access, education, and perpetual preservation. This one purchase will effectively double the size of the Richmond Battlefield Park. The National Park Service at Richmond is able to acquire land through donation only.

## ☪ JUNE MEETING ☪

by Barbara Hughett

From 1861-1865, nearly three million Americans fought on battlefields that had once been quiet farms, dusty roads, and country crossroads. Those of us who study the era appreciate the importance of preserving those physical places where American Civil War history happened. Since the first national Civil War battlefield park was established over one hundred years ago at Chickamauga-Chattanooga, many acres of historic land have been protected. Much of this "hallowed ground," however, has been bulldozed away and covered with housing developments or shopping malls.

To curb this desecration, a vigorous battlefield preservation movement has developed over the past couple of decades. On June 11, Frances H. Kennedy, director of the Civil War Battlefield Campaign of The Conservation Fund, addressed 98 members and guests at the 522nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Her topic was "The Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation."

Kennedy said that in recent years, "[w]ith increasing fervor, millions of Americans are studying the four pivot years in the history of our nation....The most important thing I can say to you today is: resting on the shoulders of all of us is the challenge of preserving the battlefields where the soldiers can be remembered and their commitment can be honored." "It is," she added, "quite simply, our patriotic duty, both to them and to future generations, to preserve those fields as great memorials, not of marble but of the very terrain itself; to preserve these fields as great outdoor classrooms where we can learn about unity and division, of slavery and freedom, of death and heartache, tragedy and bravery....It was only 130 years ago that we Americans decided to kill each other rather than negotiate our differences."

In order for this land to be saved in any large-scale manner, individuals and communities must be convinced of the economic advantages of battlefield preservation. Kennedy related how The Civil War Battlefield Campaign of The Conservation Fund has worked in partnership with individuals, organizations, and agencies to protect land on twenty-two battlefields. To accomplish this, community leaders had to be convinced of the economic benefits of protecting this land.

To make her case for preservation, Kennedy listed several of these economic benefits. She said that tourism is the second largest retail industry in the United States—right next to supermarkets. Visitors spent the following amounts, in the years indicated, at major battlefield parks: Gettysburg (1986) - \$45 million; Pea Ridge (1991) - \$11 million; Petersburg (1989) - \$14 million. Visitors to Cobb County, Georgia, where Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield is located, spent \$700 million in 1989, creating 17,000 local jobs and generating \$29 million in local tax receipts. There were nearly 800,000 visitors to Kennesaw Mountain in 1991.

"Land goes off the real estate tax rolls," she pointed out, "when it becomes a battlefield park, but it generates tax dollars through sales taxes and hotel and restaurant taxes—about seven cents for every dollar spent—and those pennies go into the state and local government bank accounts. Visitor spending in Fredericksburg, Virginia, meant nearly \$900,000 in taxes last year."

Battlefields function as a basic industry, but one that does not require the infrastructure costs of commercial, residential, and industrial development. Development al-

ways requires costly new services, such as roads, schools, extensive police and fire protection, and sewer and water lines. "Communities lure industry," she said, "by offering [the industries] lower real estate taxes for the first few years. Industry's jobs lure workers to move into the community, requiring residential development that is costly. If leaders are not vigilant, the broadened tax base will increase everyone's tax rates....Communities [whose citizens] plan together for their future are not controlled by outside."

Kennedy stated her intention was to present an approach that asks questions that are valid—and provides some reasonable answers—regarding the economic aspects of any open-space preservation. The information should be relevant, whether "in your community; or in Brice's Crossroads, where only one acre is protected; or at Perryville, where [a preservation] movement is moving forward with great community support in partnership with the governor and the state; or at Brandy Station, where the stakes are very high."

"Our challenge," she said, "is to work in partnership to consecrate, not desecrate; to honor those soldiers; to work together to fashion our collective vision to protect America's heritage.... We invite your support now at Corinth and Port Hudson—and in the future as we study and preserve, together."

### Change of Date

Please note that the date of our October meeting—the Nevins-Freeman dinner—has been changed to October 15, 1993, the **third** Friday of the month.

### The Situation at Grant's Tomb

The Lincoln Tomb is a well-maintained shrine which people treat with respect; but the tomb of President Lincoln's winning general, Ulysses S. Grant, who did so much to assure the survival of the United States of America, is regularly vandalized and covered with graffiti. The historic site, part of the National Park Service (NPS) system, is located in a disadvantaged neighborhood in New York City. The tomb site is closed to visitors on Mondays and Tuesdays and is abandoned at night, a situation which invites its desecration by neighborhood vandals.

In order to assist the NPS and to gain public support, George M. Craig, former president of The Civil War Round Table of New York and a member of our Round Table, has been asked to chair "The Friends of Grant's Tomb." An agreement has been made between the NPS and The Friends of Grant's Tomb, which will make it possible for the Friends to begin a campaign to take measures in an effort to halt the deterioration at the tomb site. To learn what you can do to assist or to make a tax-exempt monetary contribution, contact George Craig, 83-12 St. James Street, Elmhurst, New York 11373, 718-639-6462.

### Alan T. Nolan to Receive 1994 Nevins-Freeman Award

The Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table, at its June 19 meeting, voted to bestow its 1994 Nevins-Freeman award on Civil War scholar Alan T. Nolan. A longtime friend of The Round Table, Nolan is the author of several books, including *The Iron Brigade* (1961) and *Lee Considered* (1991). He will deliver his acceptance address at the October 1994 meeting.

## The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Edwards, John N. *Shelby and His Men: Or, the War in the West*. Kansas Heritage Press. 1992. \$35.00. Original of 1867.

Einhorn, Lois J. *Abraham Lincoln the Orator: Penetrating the Lincoln Legend*. Greenwood Press. 1992. \$45.00.

Escott, Paul D. *After Secession: Jefferson Davis and the Failure of Confederate Nationalism*. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$10.95. Original of 1978.

**Honorary Life member Ernest A. Griffin** was an honored guest at the August 21 unveiling of a monument honoring the African-American soldiers who fought in the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. The statue is located at the site of the battle in Petersburg, Virginia. Ernest Griffin's grandfather, Private Charles H. Griffin, Company B, 29th Infantry Regiment, USCT, fought in the Battle of the Crater.

**Gettysburg, a Turner Pictures film**, will be released to movie theaters throughout the country on October 8. The film, based on the Michael Shaara novel *The Killer Angels*, stars Tom Berenger, Martin Sheen, Jeff Daniels, and Sam Elliott. Several gala premieres have been scheduled to benefit battlefield preservation.

**Former President Brooks Davis** spoke at the Lincoln College "Honors Day" program, held at the college's Normal, Illinois, campus on May 23. His talk centered on what students could learn from the example set by Abraham Lincoln.

**Senior Vice President Barbara Hughett** will address the San Diego Civil War Round Table on September 15. Her topic will be "The Civil War Round Table Movement: Its Past and Its Future."

**Former President William Sullivan** will speak on "William Clark Quantrell: A Study in Scarlet" to the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on September 18. The dinner meeting will be held at the Catigny Country Club in Wheaton, Illinois. For information, call Roger Bohn at 708-858-2956.

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.

### Schimmelfennig Boutique

In addition to The Round Table history, the following items are available at each monthly meeting:

Lapel pins \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00  
Mugs \$2.00 each, two for \$3.00  
Meeting tapes \$7.00 each  
Civil War Buff posters \$10.00 each

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

## BULLETIN BOARD



### FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

**September 10:** William A. Young, Jr., on "Pickett's Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend First Lieutenant George W. Finley"

**October 15:** Stephen B. Oates, Nevins-Freeman Address (Please note, this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

**November 12:** K. Jerry Williams on "The Confederate Navy in England"

**December 10:** Paul I. Kliger on "The New Mexico Campaign"

**January 14:** Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Jr., on "Civil War Art"

**February 11:** Robert Remini on "Henry Clay, Slavery, and the Coming of the Civil War"

**March 11:** General Gordon R. Sullivan on "The Wilderness"

**April 8:** Stacey Allen on "New Discoveries at Shiloh"

**May 5-8:** Annual Battlefield Tour—Shenandoah Valley

**May 13:** Robert K. Krick on "Lawyers, Politicians, and Clerks: The Regimental Command of Lee's Army"

**June 10:** Major Frank K. McKenzie, USMC, on "Combined Operations Against Charleston"

**Former President Marvin Sanderman** was recently awarded an Honorary Life membership in The Civil War Round Table, in recognition of his many years of service. The honor was bestowed on Marv by Honors Committee Chair Paul Kliger at the June 11 meeting.

**Four Round Table members**—Kurt Carlson, Barbara Hughett, Marshall Krolick, and Ralph G. Newman—appeared on "Good Day Chicago," WFLD-TV's (channel 32) morning show, on August 19. The group discussed the causes of the Civil War.

"**Abraham Lincoln in the American Mind**" is the theme of the eighth annual Lincoln Colloquium to be held at Sangamon State University in Springfield on October 23. Speakers include Mark E. Neely, Jr., Harold Holzer, William Hanchett, Douglas Wilson, and Frank J. Williams. Registration begins at 10:00 a.m. The program begins at 11:00 a.m. and last until 5:00 p.m. The \$25 per-person fee includes a luncheon.

Checks should be made payable to Eastern National Park & Monument Association, with the word "colloquium" written on the "memo" line of the check. Send registration fees to: Lincoln Colloquium, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 413 South Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1905. For further information, call Tim Townsend at 217-492-4150.

**The Eleventh Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show** will be held on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois. For further information, call Robert Nowak at 312-539-8432.