

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LIV, Number 8

Chicago, Illinois

April 1994

Major Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC, on “Confronting Charleston: A Combined Campaign”

by Barbara Hughett

CHARLESTON, South Carolina, where the Civil War began, represented the very soul of the Confederacy. This city of incandescent treason excited Union strategic planners for reasons as much political and psychological as military. The United States Navy, Army, and Marine Corps fought an extended, bitter, and ultimately unsuccessful littoral campaign aimed at reducing the city of Charleston.

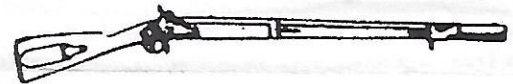
The Army and the Navy operated against the city, beginning in November 1861, from an advance base at Hilton Head, seized earlier in the war. The Army maintained a force of 13,000 among the sea islands, stretching from Beaufort to Charleston. By late August 1863, the Union Army, under the command of Major General Quincy Gillmore, stood on Morris Island within sight of the spires of the city.

The Navy had maintained a blockading fleet off Charleston since 1861. Gradually, the wooden hulls of the early blockaders had given way to the new ironclad designs of the *Monitor* and her successors. In April 1863, Rear Admiral Samuel F. DuPont's attempt to breach the harbor in an ironclad-fort duel ended in his decisive defeat. The following August, after months of deflecting shots from shore batteries on the South Carolina coast and dodging the mines that protected Charleston harbor, Rear Admiral John Dahlgren determined to retake the elusive Confederate prize, Fort Sumter. His attack also proved unsuccessful.

Major Kenneth F. McKenzie, United States Marine Corps, will address The Round Table on March 8. His topic will be “Confronting Charleston: A Combined Campaign.” Major McKenzie will trace the history of the failed campaign against Charleston, from 1862 through 1865, and look at the impact of new technologies on military and naval institutions, the role of doctrine, and the importance of campaign design and the operational art. He will address the “ever-present problem” of making the Army and the Navy—and that “curiously amphibian” organization, the Marine Corps—fight together toward a concerted goal. His presentation will feature pictures, maps, and additional graphics. It is based on



Major Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC



530th Regular Meeting

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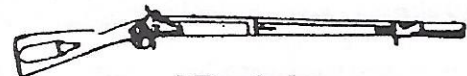
Friday, April 8

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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: Chicken Marsala, Orange Roughy, or
Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, April 6. 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.

primary material, and will highlight the human side of the campaign as well as the operational issues.

Major Kenneth F. McKenzie is assigned to the Commandant of the Marine Corps' Staff Group at Headquarters, Marine Corps, in Washington, D.C. where he serves as the Commandant's speech writer. An infantryman, he is a graduate of the School of Advanced Warfighting, and a Distinguished Graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and the Armor Officer Advanced Course. He has published articles in *Proceedings*, *Naval History*, *Marine Corps Gazette*, and *Parameters*. Two articles on the

(continued on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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Picnic	Paul Klekner

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.

McKenzie (continued from page 1)

Marine Corps in the Civil War will be published this year in *Naval History*. He is working on a book on the Marine Corps in the Civil War.

Major McKenzie has received several writing awards, including the 1989 Chase Prize of the Marine Corps Association, the 1990 Astor Prize of the United States Naval Institute, and the 1992 Lejeune Prize of the Marine Corps Association. In 1991, he received the Thomas Jefferson Distinguished Teaching Award of the Virginia Military Institute, and in 1993 the Clifton B. Cates Award of the School of Advanced Warfighting.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation (RMBF) needs to raise another \$40,000 to qualify for Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act funds. The money, which must be raised this spring, will be used to complete the \$252,000 purchase of the remainder of the Rich Mountain Historic District and a parcel of additional land that will complete the preservation of the 1861 battle's most critical sites. A large portion of the battlefield has already been protected by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, which acquired it in partnership with RMBF in 1992.

In its report last summer, the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission identified Rich Mountain as one of the fifty top priority sites needing preservation. The commission said the July 1861 Union victory had a "direct and decisive influence" on the western Virginia campaign that brought George McClellan to national prominence and helped save the area for the Union. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, PO Box 227, Beverly, WV 26253.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites has received a 5.5 acre site at Petersburg that includes the remains of an earthen Civil War fort and extensive Union camps. The tract, donated by a local lawyer involved in real estate, includes earthwork walls and the remains of three bombproofs, or bunkers, in which ammunition was stored. The fort, known as Fort Hill or Fort Mulligan, provided protection for Union supplies and garrison troops and served as a jump-off point for Federal expeditions from August 1863 to January 1864. The APCWS will work with a local group, the Friends of Fort Mulligan, to make the fort accessible for visitors and interpret the site.

Upcoming Civil War Battlefield Preservation conferences include the Arkansas Civil War Battlefield Preservation Conference on April 23 in Little Rock and the Third Annual American Battlefield Protection Conference on May 20-23 in Atlanta. Speakers at the Arkansas conference will include Ed Bearss, Frances Kennedy, Kent Masterson Brown of the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association, and Jerry Russell. Ed Bearss will lead a tour of the Camden Expedition. More information is available from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1500 Tower Building, Little Rock, AR 72201.

The conference in Atlanta, to be hosted by Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, will feature two days of battlefield tours led by Ed Bearss and Dennis Kelly, and two days of sessions and workshops on various battlefield protection topics. For additional information, write to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, PO Box 1167, Marietta GA 30061, or call 404-427-4686.

Governor Kirk Fordice has issued an executive order creating the Mississippi Civil War Battlefield Commission. The seventeen-member commission will identify the state's significant Civil War sites, and then work with local governments and the state legislature to propose preservation measures to protect the sites and promote tourism. The report is due by the end of 1994.

☛ MARCH MEETING ☛

by Barbara Hughett

The Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General Gordon R. Sullivan, spoke before 273 members and guests at the 229th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on March 11. He entitled his address "General Grant and America's Army Today."

As he began his talk, he said, "Your Round Table is the kind of organization that nurtures civic virtues, that makes and maintains a civil society. By remembering our past, we bind ourselves together as a people. We transcend 'sectionalism' that is exclusive, not inclusive." General Sullivan continued by saying, "The principal inspiration for my remarks tonight is General Grant. His steadfast dedication to the task at hand—the restoration of the Republic—speaks to me across the years. He faced uncertainty, hardship, and criticism, but he was never afraid to take the next step forward. While the challenges facing our Army today are insignificant compared to those faced by General Grant in 1864, I often use Grant's experiences with military audiences, and I believe I can tell you much about your Army today by showing you how I look at General Grant."

The general said that when he spoke of Grant, he was using him as "shorthand" for all the Union armies under his command, adding that "those armies in turn represent the industrial capacity of the North, mobilized for military victory. It's not that I feel no admiration for General Robert E. Lee or the brave men he commanded, but I lead an Army during a time of new challenges—an Army that is now at the forefront of rapid technological change. I'm naturally drawn to Grant because he faced similar challenges. For me, Grant and his Armies are a metaphor for America's Army today. . . . Visit the cemetery at Antietam and you will find a monument with these words inscribed: 'not for themselves, but for country.' . . . Fredericksburg, Antietam, China, Vietnam . . . 'not for themselves, but for country.' Selfless service; selfless service. There is great strength in our history."

The general pointed out that information from the front in wartime has never been complete and timely. During the Civil War, artists sketched scenes that became illustrations for the war correspondents' published accounts and photographers followed the armies to capture views that helped citizens get a better view of battles and leaders. "But those sources were too slow, too sparse, and the hunger for news was immense. Today the media provides timely information, but it is still only a 'snapshot,' a sketch of the battlefield reality."

"Many historians," General Sullivan noted, "have commented that Grant was the first great general of the Industrial Age. I share that conviction. The American Army that we fielded in the World Wars—modeled on French, British, or German armies—was the epitome of Industrial Age technology and thinking. . . . Now we are on the threshold of a new age—information is becoming the currency of command, the instrument of victory. And the American Army is once again on the leading edge of this new technology and new thinking. We are now the model for other armies that are eagerly learning from us."

The general said that as we enter this new technological age, he finds the example of General Grant especially useful. "Grant's characteristics—tenacity of purpose, originality, and ingenuity—are my guides." He frequently takes

his senior officers and foreign counterparts to Civil War battlefields. "We use all the accessible battlefields, and occasionally get to the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Once we were even able to hold our after-action review on the same site where Grant held an important meeting."

In closing, General Sullivan quoted the message read to the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac before they began their campaign in the Spring of 1864, adding his belief that the words are just as appropriate for us today: "Have confidence in your officers and each other. Keep your ranks on the march and on the battlefield . . . With clear consciences serve the Government and the institutions handed down to us by our forefathers—if true to ourselves—victory, under God's blessing, must and will attend our efforts."

Joyce Warshaw 1934 - 1994

by Ralph G. Newman

Joyce Warshaw, one of the first women to join The Civil War Round Table, died at her home in Evanston, on Tuesday, March 8, 1994. She was also one of the founding members of the "Camp Followers," created under the leadership of Betsey Davis when we observed a "men-only" policy.

A talented writer with a impish, sardonic sense of humor, she employed her talents in many areas. She served with her then husband, Jerry, on the staff of the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission. She was special administrative assistant to the chairman of the commission. She was executive secretary for the William Hart Adler Agency and for the Educational Testing Service. She took her politics seriously and was an active member of the Democratic Party of Evanston. She is survived by a daughter, Elizabeth, a resident of Murphysboro, Illinois, and a brother, Richard Milash, of California.

There was an ethereal quality about Joyce—there were times when she seemed to be a visitor from another planet. Serious at times, but mystifying also, it was often difficult to determine whether she was really serious or merely indulging in her remarkable and often "out of this world" humor. Always willing to help in any project, she never failed to offer her services to The Civil War Round Table for any of its activities. When a few "denizens" of Old Town organized a "spoof" Old Town Yacht Club, she wrote our credo—a tribute to those who choose *not* to go down with the ship, but prefer to continue to live. Because of Joyce, our "yacht club" quarters were decorated with pictures of great sea disasters—the Lusitania, the Titanic, the Normandie, the Norwegian ship which sank as it was being launched, and others. She joined us on many of our battlefield tours and was genuinely interested and concerned with the welfare of her fellow-members.

She did her best to bring happiness to our lives. Sadly, she did not seem to accomplish this for herself. A dreamer, and a beautiful one, she reminded us of the words of a poet who once wrote, "Some day we will awake from a deep sleep and find that only the sleep is gone—the dream remains."

Contributions to Joyce's memory may be made to the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Avenue, Evanston 60202.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Tunnell, Ted. *Crucible of Reconstruction: War, Radicalism and Race in Louisiana, 1862-1877*. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$10.95.

Turner, George E. *Victory Rode the Rails: The Strategic Place of the Railroads in the Civil War*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1992. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1953.

Vandiver, Frank E. *Rebel Brass: The Confederate Command System*. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$9.95. Original of 1956.

Welcher, Frank J. *The Union Army, 1861-1865—Organizations and Operations. Vol. II—The Western Theater*. Indiana U. Press. 1993. \$75.00.



The **Stephen A. Douglas Association** will hold a luncheon on Saturday, April 23, to commemorate the 181st anniversary of the birth of Senator Douglas. An address will be given by George D. Levy, author of an upcoming book on the prisoner of war experience at Camp Douglas. The luncheon will begin at 12:30 p.m. at the Prairie Restaurant, 500 South Dearborn Street. To make reservations, at \$24 per person, call 312-341-1860. The luncheon will be preceded by a program at the Douglas Tomb, 636 East 35th Street, at 11:00 a.m.

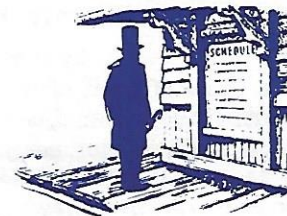
Honorary Life Member Ernest A. Griffin will receive the Captain Henry Wirtz Award in a ceremony at the Confederate Burial Mound in Oak Woods Cemetery, at 11:00 a.m. on May 1. The award will be presented by the Confederate POW Society of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as part of a program entitled "A Tribute to the Diversity of the Confederate Army."

The **Thirteenth Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference** will be held on April 29-30 in Indianapolis. Speakers will include former Round Table President Daniel Weinberg; Alan Nolan, our 1994 Nevins-Freeman honoree; 1989 Nevins-Freeman recipient, Mark E. Neely, Jr.; Jerry Russell; John Hennessy; Ted Savas; and David Long. The theme of the conference, which will be held at the Holiday Inn-Airport, is "Abraham Lincoln: An Anthology." The cost is \$85, not including hotel room charges. For information, contact the Indianapolis CWRT, 3816 Clubhouse Court, Greenwood, Indiana 46142.

The **Salt Creek Civil War Round Table** will present "An Evening with the 97th Regimental String Band" on June 24, at 8:00 p.m., at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The 97th is a re-creation of a string band of the Civil War era. For further information on the concert, 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.

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.

April 8: Major Kenneth F. McKenzie, USMC, on "Confronting Charleston: A Combined Campaign"

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: Stacey Allen on "New Discoveries at Shiloh"

July 31: Annual Round Table Picnic

New Members

Jonathan H. Brown, 1034 West Armitage, Chicago, IL 60614, 312-404-0809

James D'Orso, 1335 Astor Street, #1-C, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-642-9288

Valerie Kimble, 257 East First Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126, 708-279-3477

Samuel Sax, 237 East Delaware Place, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-664-3398

V.C. Schurman, 93 Locust Court, Pittsburgh, PA 15237, 412-366-3231

Timothy Sharpe, 18741 Ashland Avenue, Homewood, IL 60430

Change of Address

Jeff Reis, 5424 Caroline Avenue, Western Springs, IL 60558

Executive Committee Meeting

President Kurt Carlson has announced that there will be a meeting of the Executive Committee on Saturday, April 9, at 10:00 a.m., at Newman Rare Books, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 802. A final decision will be made at this meeting to determine whether we will move the site of our meetings to the Union League Club or remain at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. Also on the agenda is a proposed amendment to our bylaws. All current officers, committee chairs, and past presidents are strongly urged to attend.

Battlefield tour participants who would like to purchase a Round Table shirt or hat to wear on the tour should contact Bob Dawson (708-546-5285) **before** the April meeting.

Mark S. Braun, of Northfield, is looking for any information on residents of Evanston, New Trier, Northfield, or Niles Townships in Cook County, and Shields, Vernon, Libertyville, and Deerfield Townships in Lake County, who served in the Civil War, for use in a book he is writing. He is also looking for information on the 8th Cavalry and the 37th, 39th, 51st, 57th, 72nd, 88th, and 113th Illinois Infantry. Contact Braun at 708-441-0522 or fax: 708-866-8825.