

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LV, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 1994

Nevins-Freeman Address Alan T. Nolan on "Grant and Sherman: An Effective Partnership"

by Barbara Huggett

The Nevins-Freeman Award, named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table in 1974. On October 7, Civil War scholar and author Alan T. Nolan will be the recipient of the twenty-first annual Nevins-Freeman Award. The topic of his acceptance address will be "Grant and Sherman: An Effective Partnership."

At the beginning of the American Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant was a man who might have been voted as "least likely to succeed." A West Point graduate, he had resigned from the army in 1854 to avoid court martial and became increasingly destitute as he failed at a number of undertakings. When President Lincoln called for volunteers in 1861, Grant offered his services. He would become the great military leader of the Union.

The beginning of the war found William Tecumseh Sherman, also a West Point graduate and a native of Ohio, as the head of a military school that is now Louisiana State University. When Louisiana seceded, despite his genuine affection for the South where he had lived for twelve years, he resigned his position and volunteered for Federal service. Though he was accused of insanity by the press and was often critical of administration policies, it was his unorthodox approach to military strategy that was crucial in breaking both the back and spirit of the Southern rebellion.

Both Grant and Sherman were civilians when the war's first shots were fired at Sumter, yet they rose during the war to unique distinction. Along the way they formed a close personal relationship and an unusually effective professional relationship. Nolan, in his address, will discuss their careers and personalities and inquire into their personal and professional relationships.

Alan Nolan, chairman of the board of trustees of the Indiana Historical Society, is a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a former presi-



Alan T. Nolan



534rd Regular Meeting

☆☆☆

Nevins-Freeman Address
Alan T. Nolan on "Grant and Sherman: An Effective Partnership"

☆☆☆

Friday, October 7

☆☆☆

Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

Entree: Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Black Truffle Sauce, Catch of the Day, or Fruit Plate



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, October 5, by calling The Civil War Round Table offices at 312-341-1865. 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. **No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.**

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is free at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club.

dent of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. A graduate of Indiana University and Harvard Law School, he practices law in Indianapolis.

His book *The Iron Brigade* (1961) was named by *Civil War Times Illustrated* as one of the "one hundred best books

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841
 Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402
 Phone: 312-341-1865
 Fax: 312-341-1863

Officers

President	Barbara Hughett
Senior Vice President	Carole Cierniak
Vice President	Larry Gibbs
Vice President	Robert Girardi
Treasurer	James Netherly
Secretary	Bruce Allardice
Assistant Treasurer	Charles Bednar
Assistant Secretary	Michael Marienthal
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Tour Registrar	Richard McAdoo
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert Larry Gibbs, Robert Girardi

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1995: Gene Holland, Carole Le Claire, Frank Patton, Jerome Schur
Terms expiring in 1996: Robert Dawson, Karen Krieger, Eleanor Leichenko, Norman Poteshman

Committee Chairs

Fall Kentucky Tour	Brooks Davis
Spring Battlefield Tour	Larry Gibbs Richard McAdoo
Battlefield Preservation Fund	Mary Munsell Abroe
Financial Planning	Kurt Carlson
Nevins-Freeman Award	Joseph Wisehart
Membership	Glen N. Wiche C. Robert Douglas
Publications/Printed Material	David Richert
Publicity/Public Relations	Donni Case
Hospitality	Susan Phillips Janet Linhart
Nominating	Kurt Carlson
Field Artist/Archives	Jerry Warshaw
Honors	Paul I. Klinger
Union League Club Liaison	John Higginson
Tape Record Librarians	Robert Girardi Roger Bohn
Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfenning Boutique	Ted Birndorf
House	Thomas Herres Charles Ten Brink
Picnic	Paul Klekner Robert Dawson

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, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

Our old friend and longtime battlefield tour guide Ed Bearss has assumed a new position with the National Park Service. In July he was promoted to Special Assistant for Military Sites. The change came at the request of National Park Service Director Roger Kennedy.

According to the National Park Service release announcing the change, Ed, chief historian since 1981, will serve as adviser to the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program, help establish a committee to promote implementation of the recommendations of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, act as Kennedy's liaison with state Civil War commissions, work with the NPS's regional offices to broaden the interpretation of Civil War sites to include the roles of minorities, and represent the Interior Department regarding ongoing exploration of the sunken wreck *CSS Alabama*.

In announcing the transfer, Kennedy said that Bearss's "far-reaching knowledge and expertise in the field of military history will enable us to preserve better our nation's heritage found at our sacred military sites. With the growing pressure to accomplish this mission, it is essential to have a qualified individual to advise and assist me in the day-to-day oversight of these areas." Ed said that being appointed to the newly-created position "frees me from most of my bureaucratic jobs of personnel and budgets. I enjoy being able to devote my full time to military sites."

Ben Levy, senior historian in the Chief Historian's Office is serving as acting chief historian while the National Park Service seeks applicants for the chief historian's position.

A plan to restore the West Woods at Antietam has been approved by Washington County officials. The West Woods played an important part in the fighting during the morning phase of the battle. The woods made a perfect shelter for Stonewall Jackson's troops as they held the left of Lee's line. In recent times the woods have been cut back for farmers to cultivate the land. Now that the bulk of the land is in Park Service ownership they can begin restoring the woods to their wartime appearance.

Pamplin Park Civil War Site in Petersburg opened to the public in June. The 103-acre wooded tract located on the Petersburg defensive line contains some of the finest earthen entrenchments in the country. The park features a 1.1 mile walking trail and a 7000 square-foot visitors building with exhibits detailing the history of the Petersburg siege in 1864-65.

The property was purchased in 1992 by the Pamplin Foundation of Portland, Oregon. Ancestors of the Pamplin family owned Tudor Hall, the wartime estate that encompassed the site. The Pamplin Foundation hired the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to develop and manage the site.

The North Carolina General Assembly has appropriated over \$4 million to protect the remaining walls of Fort Fisher in Wilmington, North Carolina. The fort served from 1861-65 as one of the Confederacy's largest earthwork fortifications. It guarded the New Inlet entrance to the Cape Fear River and kept the port of Wilmington open to blockade runners. Much of the fort was destroyed by erosion. It is on the list of endangered National Historic Landmarks.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

by Larry Gibbs

At the 533rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on September 9, 157 members and guests heard historian Frank J. Williams give his views on the myths and reality of the "true" Abraham Lincoln. The speech revolved around the key questions: Why does everyone want to "get right" with Lincoln and what does this phenomenon tell us about our popular political culture? The title of the program was "Abraham Lincoln: Our Ever Present Contemporary."

Many aspects of modern culture reflect our desire to "get right" with Abraham Lincoln. There are many Lincoln impersonators and several recent television shows, novels, and other media sources have dealt with Lincoln's life and personality. Lincoln's papers have appreciated tremendously in value, but Williams indicated that this fact only drives a wedge between collectors and historians. Advice columnists to the lovelorn take solace in Lincoln's romantic problems. Lawyers desire to have a Lincoln-esque view but this view no longer sells. Williams stated that popular images of Lincoln have changed from "Lincoln the Emancipator" and "Lincoln the Statesman" to a mythological Lincoln.

Myths about Lincoln make one inquire about the reality of Lincoln. According to Williams, Lincoln had already become partly myth before his death. One newspaper reported that after the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln was more than a mere statesman. Williams insisted that "the best examples of the real, mature Lincoln were his last speeches—especially the Second Inaugural Address."

In his Second Inaugural Address Lincoln influenced events with words of forgiveness and compassion, "with malice toward none, with charity for all." This speech showed Lincoln's concern over the end of slavery and his vision for a reconstruction policy. Lincoln's final remarks reflect a more mature Lincoln than in previous times. The "true" Lincoln, asserted Williams, was an evolution of Lincoln as an effective, confident military leader, as an able, competent administrator, and as "the Great Emancipator." Lincoln had experiences and events that shaped his life as he matured. Williams explained that "Lincoln was adaptable, but not ambiguous, as his life progressed."

His change in racial attitudes exemplified Lincoln's growth and maturity. Williams claimed that Lincoln showed his immature political side in the 1858 debates with Stephen Douglas. In those debates Lincoln proclaimed that blacks might be innately inferior to whites in some areas. Lincoln's racial views became more progressive as he matured during his presidency. Williams claimed that his issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation was illustrative of Lincoln's evolution in his racial views.

Historians have disagreed on Lincoln's Proclamation because no slaves were actually freed from border or northern states. John Hope Franklin thought that the impact of the Emancipation Proclamation was momentous, that slavery had no chance of succeeding after the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. However, Barbara Fields claimed that Lincoln did not free the slaves; the slaves freed themselves. Her view diminished Lincoln's role in emancipation significantly. On the other hand, James McPherson stated that Lincoln would rather have war than allow secession. Without the Civil War there would be no Eman-

ipation Proclamation, no Thirteenth Amendment, no self-emancipation, and no end of slavery for several decades. Williams agreed with Franklin and McPherson on Lincoln's importance to emancipation.

Williams made effective and humorous use of slides throughout his presentation. The slides reflected the many disparate persons who have used Lincoln's myth and image to their advantage. Williams readily admitted that the civil strife of Lincoln's time made him larger than life. "If Lincoln had lived in times of peace no one would remember his name now," stated Williams. The times must give a president an opportunity to achieve greatness. Lincoln was given such an opportunity with the Civil War.

Alan T. Nolan (continued from page 1)

ever written about the Civil War." It remains in print over thirty years after its publication. His latest book, the highly-acclaimed *Lee Considered: General Robert E. Lee and Civil War History* (1991), was a selection of the History Book Club and the Book of the Month Club. Alan Nolan has also written numerous articles for historical publications and a contemporary novel, *Of Sounding Brass*. He last addressed The Round Table in November 1991, when his topic was "The Generalship of Robert E. Lee."

Previous Nevins-Freeman Honorees

Bruce Catton, 1974	Richard B. Harwell, 1984
Ralph G. Newman, 1975	John Y. Simon, 1985
T. Harry Williams, 1976	Harold M. Hyman, 1986
Lloyd D. Miller, 1977	James T. Hickey, 1987
Bell I. Wiley, 1978	Robert K. Krick, 1988
E. B. Long, 1979	Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1989
Edwin C. Bearss, 1980	Marshall D. Krolick, 1990
James I. Robertson, 1981	Gary W. Gallagher, 1991
Frank E. Vandiver, 1982	Shelby Foote, 1992
John Hope Franklin, 1983	Stephen B. Oates, 1993

John A. Latschar is the new superintendent of Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site. He has served as acting superintendent since August 8, and was formerly chief of the Natural and Cultural Resources Section at the Denver (Colorado) Service Center.

Buckner S. Morris, second mayor of the city of Chicago, distinguished judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, and a defendant in the Camp Douglas Conspiracy Trials, is without a headstone at Rosehill Cemetery. A minimum of \$660 is required for a small marker. Please send donations to the Buckner S. Morris Fund, Midwest Bank, 300 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

The Wheaton History Center is planning a Civil War exhibit for mid-January, "The Era of Sacrifice: The Fight for Freedom, 1856-1866." The center is interested in borrowing items of historical significance to enhance the exhibit. Two of our members—Vice President Robert Girardi and Salt Creek Round Table President Roger Bohn—are on the exhibit committee. For further information, contact Bob or Roger, or call the Wheaton History Center, at 708-682-9472.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Current, Richard N. *Lincoln's Loyalists — Union Soldiers from the Confederacy*. Oxford University Press. Pbk. \$9.95. Original of 1992.

Davis, William C., ed. *The Confederate General*. National Historical Society, c/o Haddon Craftsmen, Winfield Warehouse, 600 Sanders St., Scranton, PA 18505. 6 vols.—\$29.95/vol.

Dougan, Michael B. *Confederate Arkansas: The People and Policies of a Frontier State in Wartime*. U. of Alabama Press. 1991. Pbk. \$12.95. Original of 1976.

Engle, Stephen D. *Yankee Dutchman —The Life of Franz Sigel*. U. of Arkansas Press. 1993. \$36.00.

The Americus Brass Band, a Civil War replica band, will perform at the College of Lake County at 8:00 p.m. on October 23. This band provided the sound tracks for the miniseries "Son of the Morning Star" and the movie "Glory." Tickets cost \$8. For information, call 708-223-6601 extension 2300.

The Civil War Round Table of Long Beach is raising money for battlefield preservation by selling a book, *A Day With Mr. Lincoln: Essays Commemorating The Lincoln Exhibit At The Huntington Library*, published by Rank and File Publications. The 139-page book features a foreword by James M. McPherson, and essays by leading scholars, including William Hanchett, Cullom Davis, and John Rhodehamel, curator of the Huntington exhibit. To order a copy, send \$15, plus \$2.50 for postage and handling, to the Civil War Round Table of Long Beach, 1926 South Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 228, Redondo Beach, California 90277. All proceeds will go to aid battlefield preservation.

Noted author and journalist Tom Wicker will address the Union League Club Civil War Round Table luncheon at noon on Monday, October 31. For information and to make reservations, call 312-427-7800, extension 266.

Former President Marshall D. Krolick spoke to the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on September 23. His topic was "The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign."

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.

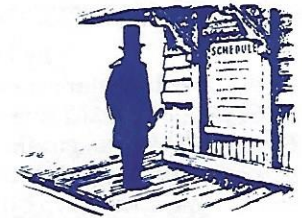
Schimmelfennig Boutique

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 Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

October 7: Alan T. Nolan, Nevins-Freeman Address "Grant and Sherman: An Effective Partnership" (Please note: this is the **first** Friday of the month.)

October 12-16: Fall Kentucky Bluegrass Tour

November 11: Terry Van Meter on "The Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac"

December 9: David E. Long on "'I Shall Never Recall a Word': Emancipation and the Race Issue in the 1864 Presidential Election Campaign"

January 13: James I. (Bud) Robertson, Jr., on "New Viewpoints on Stonewall Jackson"

February 17: Ralph G. Newman on "A Handful of Lincoln and Civil War Authors" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)

March 10: Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., on "Give Us a Flag: Afro-Confederate Loyalty in Civil War Virginia"

April 14: William Hanchett on "Lincoln's Assassination After 130 Years"

May 3-7: Annual Spring Battlefield Tour—Charleston, Columbia, and Savannah

May 12: Tamara Moser Melia on "James B. McPherson and the Ideals of the Old Army"

June 9: John Y. Simon on "Forging a Commander: Ulysses S. Grant and the First Year of the Civil War"

New Members

Marcy Bloom, 1325 N. State Parkway, #9-E, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-280-1872

Barry Fredman, 3130 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-472-3583

Jay Holmes, 24790 Indian Grass Court, Barrington, IL 60010, 708-526-0586

Millie O. Jarvis, 2739 N. Magnolia Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, 312-248-7472

Ruth Klinger, 1923 Warren Street, Evanston, IL 60202, 708-864-4029

George D. Levy, 726 W. Junior Terrace, Chicago, IL 60613, 312-549-2306

Edward Quattrocchi, 1225 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202, 708-475-4653

Michael Quattrocchi, 1225 Hinman Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202, 708-475-4653

Changes of Address

Adrienne Hanrahan, 109 Kensington Circle, #201, Wheaton, IL 60187, 708-668-7567

Tom Trescott, 5036 N. Winthrop, #A-1, Chicago, IL 60640

Katsumi Ueno, 1526 Main Street, Evanston, IL 60202

Board of Trustees member Robert Dawson recently addressed the Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country, in Mundelein. His topic, about the 96th Illinois Infantry, was titled "An Undistinguished Regiment Distinguishes Itself."