

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LV, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 1994

## David E. Long on "I Shall Never Recall A Word": Emancipation and the Race Issue in the 1864 Presidential Election Campaign"

by Barbara Hughett

The United States presidential election of 1864 was perhaps the most crucial in the country's history. In late August—less than three months before the election—the incumbent president expected to lose. The Civil War had dragged on for three years, with a heavy toll of lives lost on both sides. A season of setbacks and disappointments had seriously weakened the resolve of the North to continue the fight. A Democratic successor to President Abraham Lincoln might not be willing to further prosecute the war.

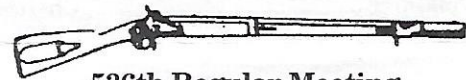
David E. Long will address The Round Table on December 9; his topic will be "I Shall Never Recall a Word": Emancipation and the Race Issue in the 1864 Presidential Election Campaign." Long will focus on that "spring and summer of despair" in 1864 when Lincoln faced the prospect of losing all he had worked so hard to achieve during his presidency. Particularly the race issue haunted Lincoln as the Democratic party and press did all in their power to blame the continuation of the war on him and his insistence on emancipation of the slaves.

The situation got so bad that some Republican leaders began to conspire to hold a second convention at which they would nominate a different candidate. Henry Raymond, Lincoln's campaign manager, even proposed that the president withdraw his insistence upon emancipation as a condition for peace, in an attempt to curtail the eroding support for the president due to his stand on the slavery issue. Lincoln resolved that he could not withdraw the Emancipation Proclamation, even if by not doing so he lost the election. It was an unparalleled act of courage and integrity by an American politician.

David E. Long is the author of the recently-released book, *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Re-election and the End of Slavery*, which has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, the Bancroft Prize, and the Lincoln Prize of Gettysburg College. Stephen B. Oates has described this book as "the most important study of Lincoln and the Civil War to appear in more than a decade."



David E. Long



### 536th Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

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

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Friday, December 9

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Union League Club  
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

Entree: Grilled Sirloin with Mushroom Sauce or  
Catch of the Day



### Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, December 7, 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.

James M. McPherson said: "This splendid book is the best account of Northern politics during the Civil War to have appeared in years."

Long holds a B. A. degree from Ohio State University and a J. D. from the Ohio State University College of Law. He served as a prosecutor in the State Attorney's Office in

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# 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

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



## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

A U.S. bankruptcy judge has ruled that Elkwood Downs can sell a 425-acre parcel at the Brandy Station battlefield to Benton Ventures, which proposes to put a Formula One racetrack there. The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and the Brandy Station Foundation had presented a \$5.2 million bid for the entire 2300-acre parcel in July. Approval of the bankruptcy judge was needed since Elkwood Downs, which had originally proposed a 1500-acre industrial development at Brandy Station, had filed for protection under Chapter 11 of federal bankruptcy laws.

Before the racetrack can be built, a permit for altering the property must be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since the site contains wetlands. In addition, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must issue a decision on the effect the racetrack will have on the site. Preservationists are still hoping to buy the property.

**Approval of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Park** has been deferred by the 103rd Congress. The Shenandoah Valley National Battlefield Partnership Act of 1994 called for a network of battlefields comprising approximately 1863 acres at Cedar Creek, Cross Keys, Fisher's Hill, McDowell, New Market, Opequon, Port Republic, Second Kernstown, Second Winchester, and Tom's Brook. In addition, legislation to create new battlefield parks at Stones River, Tennessee, and Honey Springs and Washita, Oklahoma, and an interpretive center at Corinth, Mississippi, also was not acted on. The proposals are all likely to be reintroduced in the next Congress.

The 103rd Congress did allocate \$9.6 million for construction and planning projects at Chickamauga-Chatanooga, Harpers Ferry, Kennesaw, Monocacy, Stones River, and Fort Smith. In addition, funds for land acquisition at Fredericksburg-Spotsylvania, Palo Alto, and Stones River were approved.

**Dollars and Sense of Battlefield Preservation, The Economic Benefits of Protecting Civil War Battlefields, A Handbook for Community Leaders**, by Frances H. Kennedy and Douglas R. Porter, was published in October by the Conservation Fund in partnership with the American Farmland Trust, The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, the Land Trust Alliance, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The book describes how battlefields can become assets to communities as income generators and as open spaces with historic qualities. For information about purchasing a copy of the book, contact The Preservation Press at 800-766-6847.

### \*\*\* Silent Auction \*\*\*

A limited edition Keith Rocco print will be silent-auctioned at the January meeting; bids will be taken at both the December and January meetings. Proceeds will benefit the Illinois Monument at Vicksburg, which is in need of restoration. A Round Table member donated the print for this specific purpose. Entitled "Island of Mercy: The Pry Mill at Antietam," the print is an artist proof numbered 45 of 50 from a total edition of 950. The 1994 print is pencil-signed by Keith Rocco and Dr. Gordon Dammann, who commissioned the original painting for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.



## ☛ NOVEMBER MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

Friday, November 11, was Veterans Day. Appropriately, Terry Van Meter, director of the U.S. Cavalry Museum in Fort Riley, Kansas, and a distinguished Vietnam veteran, spoke before 150 members and guests at the 535th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Van Meter has received the Bronze Star with "V" device, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Purple Heart. He spoke on "The Cavalry Corps of The Army of the Potomac."

A flag of the Society of the Cavalry Corps of the Armies of the United States was donated to the U.S. Cavalry Museum, in September of 1989. This led to research that showed the Cavalry Corps, Army of the Potomac, was one of the largest elements within the Union Army. Some key questions in Van Meter's presentation revolved around: what was the Society of the Cavalry Corps of the Armies of the United States and which units were included in its membership?

Five regular Union cavalry units existed at the start of the Civil War, but by 1862 there were eight. Initially, the jobs of the cavalymen included scouting, supporting the artillery, and providing rear guard protection. These duties expanded as the war continued.

Van Meter gave a detailed examination of the cavalry engagements of the Army of the Potomac. At the Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862), the Federal cavalry had little involvement. After Antietam, General Ambrose Burnside reorganized the cavalry into three grand units. Picket duty and reconnaissance were the primary cavalry duties at this time. In 1863, General Joseph Hooker again reorganized the cavalry, creating a fourth grand unit. This consolidation of cavalry units by Burnside and Hooker increased the effectiveness of the Federal cavalry. According to Van Meter, "This consolidation was the most important event for the cavalry to that date."

Union General George Stoneman launched the first full-scale cavalry raid on Richmond during the Chancellorsville Campaign in April and May of 1863. "The battle that *made* the Union cavalry," Van Meter noted, "was the Battle of Brandy Station on June 9, 1863." In this, the largest cavalry battle of the war, Confederate cavalry forces under J.E.B. Stuart came up against the Union cavalymen of General Alfred Pleasanton. After a day of fierce fighting the heretofore superior Confederate cavalry retreated. From this point on, the horsemen of the North gained a new confidence in themselves and their commanders.

Regarding preliminary action before the Battle of Gettysburg, Van Meter discussed Colonel John Buford's contributions on June 30, 1863. On that day, Van Meter theorized, "Buford took the initiative and possibly saved the battle for the Union." Buford bought time for other northern units to converge on Gettysburg. The Union cavalry, using Spencer repeating rifles, made a great deal of difference at Gettysburg and later. These rifles gave Federal cavalymen vastly increased firepower.

An altercation between the commanding general, George Gordon Meade, and the ambitious Colonel Philip Sheridan was discussed. The two men argued about the use of Sheridan's cavalry, with Sheridan pushing for an independent cavalry command for himself. When General Ulysses S. Grant took charge of the Army of the Potomac in 1864, he acceded to Sheridan's wishes. Sheridan took over

an independent command of 12,444 Union cavalymen on April 4, 1864. In attacking Richmond in May of 1864, one result was the Battle of Yellow Tavern (May 9-11, 1864) where J.E.B. Stuart was killed. Sheridan finished the successful campaign on May 24. Van Meter stated, "Sheridan's cavalry corps had exhibited an effective organization." For the rest of the Civil War, the Union cavalry remained a vital part of the Army of the Potomac.

Van Meter, of course, is a strong enthusiast for museums. The flag of the Cavalry Corps at the Fort Riley museum represents the history of the battlefield units. He said, "To the museum staff, the flag represents an organization that helped shape the Civil War." In closing, Van Meter encouraged all history buffs to support and take advantage of military museums.

### LONG (continued from page 1)

Sarasota and Bradenton, Florida, and has practiced law in Florida and in Columbus, Ohio. He made a career change several years ago, returning to his "first love"—Nineteenth Century American history. He subsequently earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at Florida State University.

Long was recently a professor of law and history at Manatee Community College in Bradenton, Florida, and is currently an adjunct professor at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg. He is a member of numerous historical organizations, has written articles for professional journals, and lectures throughout the country. He serves on the board of directors of the American Blue and Gray Association, and is founder and president of the Manasota Civil War Round Table. He is currently the planner of two major conferences on the election of 1864—in San Diego in March and in Washington, D.C., in April.

**Members of the Lincoln College Board of Trustees**, who are meeting in Chicago over the weekend, will be attending our December 9 dinner meeting. We warmly welcome President Jack D. Nutt, Board Chairman Homer W. Harris, and all the board members and their spouses. (Four of our members currently serve on the Lincoln College Board: Founder Ralph G. Newman; Former President Brooks Davis, who is also the former chairman of the Lincoln College Board of Trustees; Kitty Walker Douglas, and Faye Schwimmer. Former Round Table President Jerry Slechta is a Trustee Emeritus. President Barbara Hughett is editor of the quarterly *Lincoln Newsletter*, published by the Lincoln College Museum. Muriel Underwood, who designs The Round Table newsletter, is also the designer/typographer of the museum's quarterly newsletter.)

**PLEASE NOTE:** As a matter of policy, beginning with the January 13 meeting, people who are not members of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago will be charged \$25 for dinner. Members will continue to pay \$20.



Happy Holidays

from the officers of The Civil War Round Table  
and the Newsletter staff!





## The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Gosnell, H. Allen. *Guns on the Western Waters*. LSU Press. 1993. Pbk. \$12.95. Original of 1949.
- Hoke, Jacob. *The Great Invasion of 1863 or General Lee in Pennsylvania*. Stan Clark Military Books. 1993. \$32.50. Original of 1887.
- Holzer, Harold, ed. *The Lincoln-Douglas Debates: The First Complete, Unexpurgated Text*. Harper Collins. 1993. \$27.50; pbk. \$13.00.
- Hughes, Nathaniel C., Jr. & Roy Stonesifer, Jr. *The Life and Wars of Gideon J. Pillow*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1993. \$34.95.
- Hurst, Jack. *Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Biography*. Alfred A. Knopf. 1993. \$30.00.
- Jones, Samuel C. *Reminiscences of the Twenty-Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry*. Press of the Camp Pope Bookshop, P.O. Box 2232, Iowa City, IA 52444. 1993. \$25.00. Original of 1907.
- Josyph, Peter, ed. *The Wounded River: The Civil War Letters of John Vance Lauderdale, M.D.* Michigan State U. Press. 1993. \$29.95.



### Round Table Treasurer James Nethery

reminds members that their 1994-95 dues must be paid by December 31. **Persons who have not paid by that date will be dropped from the rolls.**

**Former President Marshall Krolick** addressed the luncheon meeting of the Friends of American Writers at the Union League Club on November 9. His topic was "The Soldier in the Civil War." The evening of November 9, he addressed the Cleveland Civil War Round Table on "The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign."

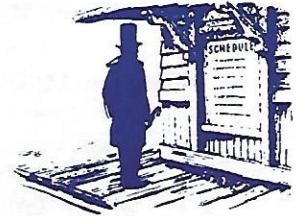
**George Craig, president of The Civil War Round Table of New York**, reports that the National Park Service at Federal Hall in New York City has announced that it has awarded a contract to Island Restoration Company of Brooklyn, New York, accepting its bid of \$375,000 to restore the General Grant National Memorial, which has been in dire need of repair for the past several years. The NPS also requested an increase of \$450,000 in the budget for fiscal year 1995 to maintain the seven-day weekly schedule of round-the-clock security which was established a few months ago at the Grant Tomb site.

### Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, the essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes, Civil War Buff posters and T-shirts, CWRT T-shirts, polos, and sweatshirts.

## 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.

*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

Charles Brannen, S.J., 6525 N. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60626, 312-973-1158, extension 102

George J. Bratsakis, 4922 W. Morse, Skokie, IL 60077. 708-677-5743

Marvin Goldberg, 5530 South Shore Drive, #19-C, Chicago, IL 60637, 312-752-5426

James R. Johnson, 21 W. 611 Glen Crest Drive, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137, 708-545-1050

John Kinyon, 352 Bristol Lane, Fox River Grove, IL 60021-1802, 708-516-4278

Fred Kolch, 1308 Cedar Drive, Stillwater, OK 74075

William Pearlman, 1350 N. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60610, 312-337-0644

### Change of Address

Dennis Donnellan, 10113 Concho Circle, Sun City, AZ 85373-1139

**Fundraising efforts to pay for a Gettysburg monument** for Confederate General James Longstreet continue. Donations may be sent to the Longstreet Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 1896, Raleigh, NC 27602.

**The Civil War Society of Berryville, Virginia**, recently gave its annual Annie D. Snyder Award for meritorious contributions to the cause of Civil War battlefield preservation to Clark "Bud" Hall and Vicki Heilig. Hall is director of the Brandy Station Foundation. Heilig is the founder and newsletter editor of the Montgomery County Civil War Round Table in Maryland, and a longtime activist in the preservation movement.