

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVII, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 1996

## NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS

### James M. McPherson on "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War"

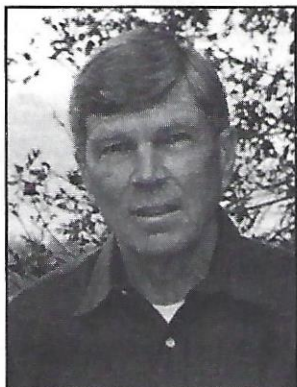
by Barbara Hughett

THE NEVINS-FREEMAN AWARD, named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table of Chicago in 1974. It is presented to individuals to honor their outstanding contributions to the preservation of American history, especially that occurring between the years 1861-1865. On October 18, noted Civil War scholar James M. McPherson will become the twenty-third annual recipient of the Nevins-Freeman Award.

The title of his acceptance address will be "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War." In this lecture, Dr. McPherson will explore the dilemma of competing male and female ideals of duty and honor in the America of the 1860s.

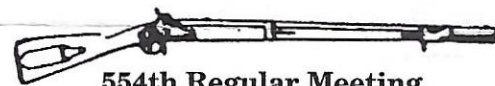
About 30 percent of volunteer soldiers in the American Civil War were married, and most of these men were fathers. An important motive for their enlistment was the masculine code of duty and honor as it was understood in the Victorian era. Many of their wives, however, believed that the principal duty of their husbands should be to family rather than country, and opposed their enlistment. Husbands responded by arguing that the failure to fulfill their duty to country would dishonor their families as well as themselves.

James M. McPherson was born in North Dakota and raised in Minnesota, where he graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College. He received his Ph.D. in history from The John Hopkins University. Since 1962 he has taught at Princeton University, where he currently holds the chair of George Henry Davis '86 Professor of American History.



James M. McPherson

He is the author of ten books on the Civil War era, the most recent of which is *Drawn With the Sword: Reflections on the American Civil War*. His *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* won the Pulitzer Prize for History in 1989. McPherson is also a popular speaker on the lecture circuit



#### 554th Regular Meeting

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#### NEVINS-FREEMAN ADDRESS

James M. McPherson on "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War"

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Friday, October 18, 1996

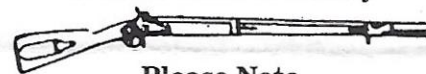
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Union League Club  
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members  
\$30 - Nonmembers

*Entree:* Breast of Chicken with Lemon Butter Sauce or Catch of the Day



#### Please Note

The October meeting is on the **third** Friday of the month. Make your reservation by Wednesday, October 16, by calling Registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438. 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 available at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club, at the rate of \$5 per car.

and has appeared on many television and radio programs dealing with Civil War topics.

He first addressed The Round Table in February  
*(continued on page 3)*

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



**Founded December 3, 1940**  
 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817  
 Chicago Illinois 60605  
 Phone: 847-698-1438

### Officers

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- Contributing Editors ..... C. Robert Douglas, David Richert  
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*Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968*

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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, 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.



**Round Table Founding Member Elmer Gertz** celebrated his 90th birthday on September 14. We extend our very warmest congratulations to Elmer!

# BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

## ☆ UPDATE ☆

by Mary Munsell Abroe

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) finalized a deal recently to buy 1543 acres at Brandy Station from developer Lee Sammis, who at various times planned an office park and a racetrack in the heart of the battlefield. Accompanying that positive news is the challenge of a \$6.2 million pricetag, which constitutes the largest-ever battlefield acquisition by the private sector. About one-third to one-half of the purchase price will come from a separate APCWS agreement with a local agricultural consortium. The remainder must be provided by us, the American public, over the three-year life of the purchase contract. Most urgently needed is \$1 million for a downpayment to Sammis in mid-November. Fortunately, an anonymous foundation has offered a \$500,000 challenge grant for that purpose, but it must be matched by November 1 or it will be forfeited.

As an organization, The Civil War Round Table will make as sizeable a donation to meet the challenge grant as our Battlefield Preservation Fund allows after the October meeting. In that regard, generous spending for the book raffle and on items for sale at the Schimmelfennig Boutique is recommended. In addition, Dr. James McPherson's latest work, *Drawn with the Sword*, will be sold at the October meeting in conjunction with his Nevins-Freeman appearance; a portion of the proceeds will benefit our Battlefield Preservation Fund. Of course, personal contributions are also encouraged. Send your check, payable to APCWS Brandy Station Campaign, to APCWS, 11 Public Square, Suite 200, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740.

We are saddened to have recently learned of the death of Joan Rovens, wife of longtime member Burton Rovens, this past September. We offer our deepest condolences to Burt and his family.

**Registrar Carole LeClaire reminds members that 1996-97 dues should have been paid by August 30.** Please submit your dues payment, or you will be removed from the roster, and will not receive your monthly newsletter, and also will have to pay the additional \$5 non-member charge for dinners.

### 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.

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

☛ SEPTEMBER MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

On September 20, at the 553rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 93 members and guests heard Dr. Stephen R. Wise speak on "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign." Wise, the director of the Parris Island Marine Corps Museum, has appeared on "Civil War Journal" and has written two books on the Civil War, including *Gate of Hell: The Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863* (1994), on which his interesting and informative presentation was based.

In the summer of 1863 Charleston, South Carolina, was a very important city for both the Confederacy and the Union. Charleston, "the birthplace of secession" and the third largest city in the South, was an important symbol. A thriving seaport in peacetime, Charleston was also important to the Confederacy for blockade running and as an arsenal. Wise proclaimed, "the Confederacy badly needed to hold Charleston in mid-1863. With the defeats at Gettysburg and Vicksburg, the battle for Charleston Harbor took on more importance for the Confederate cause. A third major defeat would be disastrous."

The first shots of the Civil War were at Fort Sumter (April 12-13, 1861), located 3.3 miles east of Charleston battery. One-half mile south of Fort Sumter lies Morris Island. This island was viewed by the Union leadership as a stepping stone to an attack upon Fort Sumter, then Charleston itself. Morris Island was the target of several major Federal attacks in the summer of 1863. The Rebels protected the island with two prominent fortifications, Battery Gregg and Fort Wagner at its northern tip.

An initial naval attack on April 7, 1863, failed to conquer Charleston. On July 10 Union Rear Admiral John Dahlgren and Brigadier General Quincy Gillmore launched a combined attack on Ft. Wagner. This operation failed miserably with heavy losses. Another combined Army and Navy attack was attempted on Ft. Wagner on July 18. The Union approach to the fort was over a narrow stretch of sand that was 25 yards wide. A marsh was on the west and the Atlantic Ocean was on the east side. Wise stressed that "Ft. Wagner was a very formidable fortification." Among the 11,000 Union troops was the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, a black unit made famous in the movie, "Glory." After ironclad guns bombarded the fort for eleven hours, the 54th Massachusetts led the infantry charge at dusk. The 54th suffered a forty percent casualty rate. It and five other regiments were repulsed, but the black soldiers proved they were reliable fighters.

After these attempts to take Ft. Wagner failed, Gillmore began to show his frustration. A huge Parrot cannon, nicknamed the "Swamp Angel," fired 36 rounds of 300-pound shells into Charleston. "The Swamp Angel exploded on the 36th round and had very little effect," explained Wise. Further evidence of growing Yankee frustration was the lack of communication between Dahlgren and Gillmore.

The Union bombardment of Ft. Wagner became extremely heavy on September 4, and the Rebels abandoned Wagner during the night of September 6. Wise claimed, however, that "the Southerners had much to be proud of in their efforts to protect Ft. Sumter and Charleston."

From Morris Island, the Union artillery eventually pulverized Ft. Sumter. Despite the Union conquests of Forts Wagner and Sumter, Charleston continued to hold out until February, 1865, when General Sherman's troops marched through South Carolina. At long last the Federals took Charleston, but not without a tremendous struggle.

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**JAMES M. MCPHERSON** (continued from page 1)

1989, when he spoke on "Lincoln and Liberty." He was the featured speaker at the Fiftieth Anniversary banquet in October 1990, when his topic was "The Two Cultures and the Civil War." That essay is published in *The Continuing Civil War: Essays in Honor of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago*, the book containing the addresses delivered during the Fiftieth Anniversary Symposium Weekend. It is currently on sale during all our monthly meetings, at the Schimmelfennig Boutique, with profits going to the cause of battlefield preservation.

**Previous Nevins-Freeman Honorees**

Bruce Catton, 1974	John Y. Simon, 1985
Ralph G. Newman, 1975	Harold M. Hyman, 1986
T. Harry Williams, 1976	James T. Hickey, 1987
Lloyd D. Miller, 1977	Robert K. Krick, 1988
Bell I. Wiley, 1978	Mark E. Neely, Jr., 1989
E. B. Long, 1979	Marshall D. Krolick, 1990
Edwin C. Bearss, 1980	Gary W. Gallagher, 1991
James I. Robertson, Jr., 1981	Shelby Foote, 1992
Frank E. Vandiver, 1982	Stephen B. Oates, 1993
John Hope Franklin, 1983	Alan T. Nolan, 1994
Richard B. Harwell, 1984	Richard N. Current, 1995

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**The Friends of Grant's Tomb** has announced that the National Park Service will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Grant's Tomb by having a monster parade, which will take place from West 79th Street in Manhattan, along Riverside Drive to the Tomb, on the anniversary of Grant's birth, April 27. Joining in the celebration will be the Ulysses S. Grant Association, Sons of Union Veterans, The Civil War Round Table of New York, and any other patriotic or military organizations that wish to participate. Reenacting groups are especially invited to take part in the parade. Such organizations should contact: Joseph Avery, Superintendent, National Park Service, Manhattan Sites, 26 Wall Street, New York, New York 10005. For additional information, contact George M. Craig, 83-12 St. James Street, Elmhurst, New York 11373.

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**The Civil War Round Table of Australia (in Melbourne)** held its 247th meeting on September 25. The meeting was addressed by Ross L. Wilson, United States Consul General for Melbourne, who spoke on the strategies of Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee in the battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. The group meets each month in the Carringbush Room of the Retreat Hotel in Abbotsford.

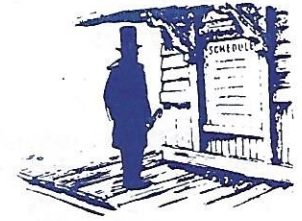
## The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Tidwell, William A. *April '65: Confederate Covert Action in the American Civil War*. Kent State U. Press. 1995. \$30.00.
- Tischler, Allan L. *The History of the Harpers Ferry Cavalry Expedition, September 14 & 15, 1862*. Five Cedars Press, 841 Wardenville Grade, Winchester, VA 22602. 1993. \$24.95.
- Toomey, Daniel C. *Marylanders at Gettysburg*. Butternut and Blue. 1994. Pbk. \$11.95.
- Tower, R. Lockwood, ed. *Lee's Adjutant: The Wartime Letters of Colonel Walter Herron Taylor, 1862-1865*. U. of South Carolina Press. 1995. \$29.95.
- Trelease, Allen W. *White Terror: The Ku Klux Klan Conspiracy and Southern Reconstruction*. LSU Press. 1995. Pbk. \$17.95. Original of 1971.
- Trout, Robert J., ed. *Riding with Stuart: Reminiscences of an Aide-de-camp (Theodore Stanford Garnett)*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1994. \$19.95.
- Trout, Robert J. *They Followed the Plume: The Story of J.E.B. Stuart and his Staff*. Stackpole Books. 1993. \$24.95.
- Trudeau, Noah A. *Out of the Storm: The End of the Civil War, April-June 1865*. Little Brown. 1994. \$27.95.
- Tucker, Glenn. *High Tide at Gettysburg: The Campaign in Pennsylvania*. Stan Clark Military Books. 1995. \$25.00. Original of 1958.
- Tucker, Philip T. *The South's Finest: The First Missouri Confederate Brigade from Pea Ridge to Vicksburg*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1993. \$27.95.
- Tucker, Philip T. *Westerners in Gray: The Men and Mission of the Elite Fifth Missouri Infantry Regiment*. McFarland & Co. 1995. \$36.00.
- Vandiver, Frank E. *Ploughshares into Swords: Josiah Gorgas and Confederate Ordnance*. Texas A&M Press. 1994. \$35.00; Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1952.
- Wallace, Lee A., Jr. *The Richmond Howitzers*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1994. \$19.95.
- Ward, James A., ed. *Southern Railroad Man: Conductor N.J. Bell's Recollection of the Civil War Era*. Northern Illinois U. Press. 1993. \$25.00.
- Watson, William. *Life in the Confederate Army, Being the Observations of an Alien in the South During the Civil War*. LSU Press. 1995. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1888.
- Waugh, John C. *The Class of 1846*. Warner Books. 1994. \$29.95.
- Waugh, John C. *Sam Bell Maxey and the Confederate Indians*. Ryan Place Publishers Inc. 1995. Pbk. \$11.95.
- Weaver, Jeffrey C. *The Civil War in Buchanan and Wise Counties: Bushwhackers Paradise*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1994. \$25.00.
- Weaver, Jeffrey C. *The Nottoway Artillery and Barr's Battery Virginia Light Artillery*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1994. \$19.95.
- Welsh, Jack D. *Medical Histories of Confederate Generals*. Kent State U. Press. 1994. \$35.00.

## 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 18:** James M. McPherson, Nevins-Freeman Address: "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War." (**This is the third Friday.**)

**November 8:** Phillip Shaw Paludan on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace"

**December 13:** Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Confederate Staff"

**January 10:** Kurt Carlson on "Patrick Cleburne"

**February 21:** Bruce Allardice on "Confederate Officers Corps" (**This is the third Friday.**)

**March 14:** Dale K. Phillips on "Benjamin Butler and the Occupation of New Orleans"

**April 11:** David Ruth on "The Army of Northern Virginia Matures: The Peninsular Campaign of 1862"

**April 18-20:** Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference, Lisle, Hilton, Lisle, Illinois

**April 30-May 4:** Annual Battlefield Tour: Richmond

**May 9:** William J. Cooper on "Jefferson Davis"

**June 13:** Mark Grimsley on "Sherman's March to the Sea"

**Chicago Historical Society Presents Several New Programs on the Lincoln Era** during October and November. These events are set to complement the CHS special exhibition, "The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America," which opened to the public this year on Lincoln's birthday and continues through February 13, 1997.

"The Eve of War: Voices from the Secession Crisis" will be presented on Sunday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m. Abraham Lincoln's election in 1860 precipitated the secession crisis that culminated in the Civil War. Through dramatic readings and visual images, this specially commissioned performance, directed by Michael Perman, professor of history at the University of Illinois Chicago, captures the mood of the nation during that critical moment in American history. This performance will feature dramatic first-person accounts based on the speeches and letters of Frederick Douglass, Edmund Ruffin, Robert Toombs, William Lloyd Garrison, and Lydia Maria Child, as well as other figures of the day.

For additional information, call 312-642-4600. The CHS is located at Clark and North Avenue in Chicago.

**The third lecture in the Ralph Geoffrey Newman Lecture Series on Civil War History** will be presented on Tuesday, October 15, at 5:30 p.m. in the Video Theater in the Harold Washington Library Center's Lower Level, located in Chicago's Loop. Lawyer and Civil War historian and former Round Table president Marshall D. Krolick will speak on the topic of "The Boy Generals: The Promotions of Custer, Farnsworth, and Merritt."