

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVIII, Number 4

Chicago, Illinois

December 1997

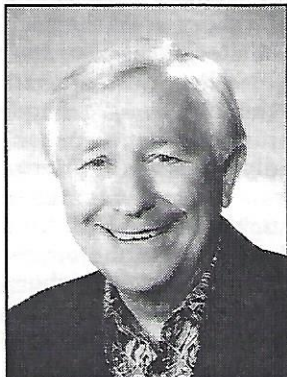
Thomas P. Sweeney on "General Fightin' Tom Sweeny"

by Barbara Hughett

Born in County Cork, Ireland, on Christmas Day, 1820, Thomas William Sweeny immigrated to the United States with his mother and brother William in 1832. While serving as a lieutenant in the 1st New York Infantry, he lost his right arm in the Mexican War. As a 1st lieutenant in the 2nd U.S. Infantry, he spent the 1850s in California and then at Fort Pierre, where he campaigned against the Sioux Indians. He was promoted to captain in January 1861 and assumed command of the St. Louis Arsenal. Serving on General Nathaniel Lyon's staff during the Battle of Wilson's Creek, he was wounded in the thigh on August 10, 1861.

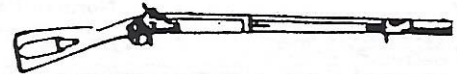
Sweeny was made colonel of the 52nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry on January 21, 1862. After the fall of Fort Donelson a month later, the 52nd was placed in charge of 6,000 prisoners whom they escorted to Chicago. At Pittsburg Landing, the 52nd was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division of the Army of the Tennessee. Sweeny commanded the brigade, and General Charles F. Smith the division.

The regiment took a prominent part in the Battle of Shiloh, on April 6-7, 1862, occupying a ravine known as the "Hornet's Nest" and losing 170 men—killed, wounded, and missing. Sweeny also commanded the regiment at the siege of Corinth on October 3-4, 1862, where they were again heavily engaged, losing 70, killed and wounded. On September 10, 1863, the officers of the 52nd Illinois presented the now Brigadier General Sweeny with a sword, a pair of field glasses, and swordbelt and sash as "an expression of our high regard for you as an officer and a gentleman."



Thomas P. Sweeney

On December 12, Dr. Thomas P. Sweeney, M.D., will address The Round Table on the topic of "General Fightin' Tom Sweeny." Dr. Sweeny is a graduate of Washington University and the University of Missouri Medical School. He interned in Michigan and returned to the University of Missouri Medical Center as a resident in radiology. He moved to Springfield, Missouri, in 1969, and since then has



566th Regular Meeting

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Thomas F. Sweeney on "General Fightin' Tom Sweeny"

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Friday, December 12

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
15th Floor
(This month only)

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members
\$30 - Nonmembers

Entree: Roast Beef or Lemon Sole



Please Note

This month's meeting is being held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, due to a scheduling conflict at the Union League Club.

Make your reservation by Wednesday, December 10, 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.

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 \$6 with a validated parking sticker.

been associated with Springfield Radiology Group.

He is a member of numerous medical and radiological societies, and is a life member and member of the board of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Founda-

(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

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Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert Larry Gibbs, Mary Munsell Abroe

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

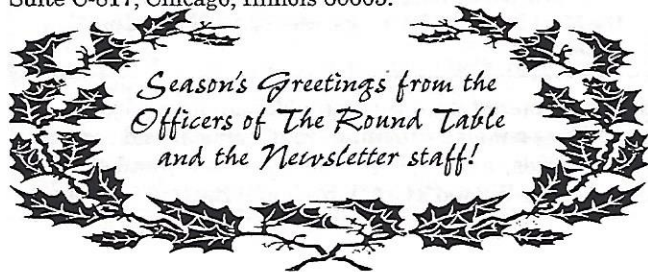
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The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address Membership Committee, 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The following "Battlefield Preservation Profile" of Bentonville, North Carolina, one of the places to be visited on The Round Table's Battlefield Tour next spring, is excerpted from the Spring 1997 issue of *Battlefield Update*, the newsletter of the American Battlefield Protection Program.

Preservation activity at Bentonville began during the early 1950s when a local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy purchased the historic Harper House and the adjacent 51 acres. The property was donated to the State of North Carolina in 1957 and a visitor center was built in 1965. In the early 1980s the North Carolina General Assembly acquired an additional 36 acres. In 1986, local residents formed the Bentonville Battleground Historical Association (BBHA) to encourage the battlefield's preservation and to assist in its interpretation. Since 1990, with the assistance of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, The Conservation Fund, and others, five properties totaling 43 acres have been added to the site.

The battlefield, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1971, was designated a National Historic Landmark in June 1996. In 1997, the American Battlefield Protection Program awarded the BBHA funds to complete a comprehensive Global Positioning Survey of the entire battlefield. Currently, the BBHA is raising money to complete the comprehensive battlefield preservation plan and to build a new visitor center.

Although a total of 130 acres of the site are protected today, only twenty are considered to be in an area of significant fighting. The remaining area within the 5,695-acre core of the battlefield, as determined by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission in 1993, is unprotected, owned by private interests, and primarily in agricultural use. Threats to the site include the expansion of a large storage facility owned by North Carolina Natural Gas, local farmers shifting to non-traditional agriculture practices, logging operations that expose earthworks to erosion, and development related to the completion of I-40, six miles east of the battlefield.

* * *

Petersburg National Battlefield has embarked on a two-year process to create a new General Management Plan for the park's next 15-20 years. A significant issue to be addressed is the fact that of nineteen nationally significant battlefields in the Petersburg area, the park does not protect eleven of them. The sites, such as Boydton Plank Road, Ream's Station, Peebles' Farm, and Sutherland's Station, are included in the 1993 congressional study of priority Civil War sites in need of preservation. Four of the eleven sites are partially preserved by private organizations.

According to Park Superintendent Mike Hill, "this is the last opportunity" for preservation of the unprotected battlefields near the park. The rural Petersburg environs "right now look a whole lot like 1865, but they won't in fifteen years. We've got to make long-term decisions and implement them in this planning cycle," he says. "If we wait till next time, it will be too late."

☪ NOVEMBER MEETING ☪

by Larry Gibbs

At the 565th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on November 14th, 83 members and guests listened to Theodore J. Karamanski give an interesting and well-received presentation on "Bronze Men and Marble Memories: Sculpture, Commemoration, and the Memory of the Civil War in Chicago." The author of *Rally Round the Flag: Chicago and the Civil War* (1993), Karamanski is a professor of history at Loyola University Chicago and is a specialist in public history.

The emphasis of Karamanski's presentation concerned how statuary gives clues of a city's communication to the public. "Citizens of Chicago have experienced landscapes differently at various times," claimed Karamanski. "In our lifetime, the Civil War statue of Union General John Logan has indicated an ironic symbolism." The statue of Logan, a great volunteer citizen, became well known as a symbol of the establishment during the hectic days of the 1968 Democratic national convention. The memory of statuary is constantly changing; the decades following the Civil War reflect this reality.

Many returning Civil War veterans had problems of readjustment to civilian life; they wanted to be respected for their victories in a private manner. At first, only private ceremonies honored the Union veterans. The first public ceremony became the first Decoration Day in 1867. In 1870, over 5,000 attended Decoration Day ceremonies at Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery; similar ceremonies were held throughout the country. The style of the Civil War statuary illustrated a muted reverence for the fighting done in the war. Union veterans did not advocate patriotic stances because they were looking to the future after years of sacrifice.

"By the 1870s, many veterans realized that the economic aspirations of their youth might not be reached," stated Karamanski. "The 1871 Chicago fire had an important impact since many veterans restored order and gave relief after the fire." Unfortunately, many letters and journals were burned in the fire. Many felt that a new and better Chicago would rise from the ashes. As a result, many statues reflected the theme of Civil War soldiers as survivors and heroes.

Karamanski said, "By the 1880s, memorialization of the Civil War had become a big business in Chicago." The value of the Civil War was preserved by the meaning of liberty, according to Abraham Lincoln. The statue of the standing Lincoln in Grant Park indicates this philosophy. Many ethnic groups, such as the Irish and Germans, had Civil War statues made especially for neighborhood cemeteries. Many of these statues were significant because they illustrated a change in the way Civil War veterans were seeing themselves. They now seemed to think that they were ordinary men, made remarkable by their wartime experiences.

The last stage of memorializing the Civil War by the veterans who fought in it is represented by the statues and monuments of the 1890s. Civil War veterans cemented a historical legacy with larger-than-life images of statues built during this decade. The 1890s saw the unveiling of statues to Generals Logan and Ulysses S. Grant in Chicago. These statues illustrate the emergence

of a new martial spirit. Each statue showed an aggressive militaristic approach.

Veterans still living were honored because they had lived useful lives after fighting the Civil War. Ceremonies honoring these veterans became very popular. In 1891, over 250,000 attended the unveiling of the U.S. Grant statue in Lincoln Park. In 1894, Union and Confederate veterans joined together to honor over 4,000 Confederate prisoners of war who died at Camp Douglas. The Confederate Monument at Oakwoods Cemetery was the site of this ceremony.

In conclusion, Karamanski asserted, "By 1895, Chicago was the art capital of America. Civil War statuary represented the new art for Chicago. These monuments indicated an enduring testament to Civil War history and to the history of Chicago—a dynamic industrial city born during the Civil War."

THOMAS F. SWEENEY (continued from page 1)

tion. He is also a member of the Civil War Round Table of The Ozarks, Museum of Ozarks History, Ozarks Watch, and is a board member of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland.

Sweeney and his wife Karen own a private museum of Civil War history in the trans-Mississippi area. General Sweeney's Museum is located across the road from Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park in Republic, Missouri.

Executive Committee Meeting

President Robert Girardi has announced that the special Executive Committee meeting, originally planned for December 13, will now be held sometime in January. Committee members will receive information in the mail.

Round Table founding member Ralph G. Newman suffered a massive heart attack on October 31, and has been hospitalized since then at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. His condition is improving, and it is expected that he will be transferred soon to the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, where he will spend several weeks. Cards may be sent to Ralph at the Rehabilitation Institute (345 East Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611) or at his home (175 East Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611).

Jack Davis to Receive 1998 Nevins-Freeman Award

The Executive Committee of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago voted at its summer meeting to award the 1998 Nevins-Freeman Award to renowned Civil War scholar and author William C. (Jack) Davis. Nevins-Freeman Award Committee Chair Mary Munsell Abroe has announced that Dr. Davis will give his acceptance address at the October 9, 1998, meeting.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Lowe, Richard. *The Texas Overland Expedition of 1863*. Ryan Place Publishers. 1996. Pbk. \$11.95.
- Luraghi, Raimondo. *A History of the Confederate Navy*. Naval Institute Press. 1996. \$39.95.
- McClure, A.K. *Abraham Lincoln and Men of War-Times. Some Personal Recollections of War and Politics During the Lincoln Administration*. Bison Books. 1996. Pbk. \$19.95. Original of 1892.
- McMurry, Richard M. *Two Great Rebel Armies, Army of Northern Virginia and The Army of Tennessee*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1996. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1989.
- Miles, Jim. *Civil War Sites in Georgia*. Rutledge Hill Press. 1996. Pbk. \$8.95.
- Miller, William L. *Arguing About Slavery: The Great Battle in the United States Congress*. Alfred Knopf. 1996. \$35.
- Nevins, Allan, James I. Robertson, Jr. and Bell I. Wiley. *Civil War Books: A Critical Bibliography*. Broadfoot Publ. Co. 1996. \$75. Original of 1967.
- Niven, John, ed. *The Salmon P. Chase Papers, Vol. 3*. Kent State U. Press. 1996. \$45.
- Parsons, George W. *Put the Vermonters Ahead: The First Vermont Brigade in the Civil War*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1996. \$24.95.
- Persico, Joseph E. *My Enemy, My Brother: Men and Days of Gettysburg*. Da Capo Press Inc. 1996. \$13.95.
- Phipps, Michael. *"Come On, You Wolverines": Custer at Gettysburg*. Farnsworth House. 1996. Pbk. \$5.95.
- Putnam, Sallie B. *Richmond During the War. Four Years of Personal Observation*. Bison Books. 1996. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1867.
- Bailey, Anne J. and Fraser, Walter J. *Portraits of Conflict: A Photographic History of Georgia in the Civil War*. U. of Arkansas Press. 1996. \$60.00.
- Baker, Levi W. *History of the Ninth Massachusetts Battery*. VanBerg Publishing Inc. 1996. \$29.95. Original of 1888.
- Bartlett, Napier. *Military Record of Louisiana, Including Biographical and Historical Papers Relating to the Military Organizations of the State*. LSU Press. 1996. Pbk. \$17.95. Original of 1875.

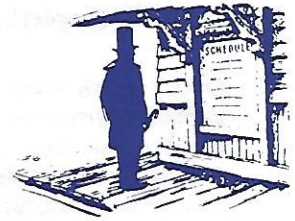
Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.

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 12: Tom Sweeney on "General Fightin' Tom Sweeney" (**This meeting only will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza.**)

January 9: Dan McCarthy on "The 83rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry"

February 13: Scott Hartwig, topic to be announced

March 13: Mark Bradley on "Bentonville"

April 17: Keith Rocco on "Civil War Art" (**This is the THIRD Friday**)

April 29-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour, "Western Armies on the Carolina Campaign"

May 8: Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes on "Writing Civil War History"

June 12: John Michael Priest on "Pickett's Charge"

NEW MEMBERS

Martin and Rebecca Anderson, 419 N. Park Boulevard, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4601, 630-469-3837

Harriet Condon, P.O. Box 7, Middleburg, VA 20118, 540-687-5613

Lincoln Memorial Shrine, 125 W. Vine Street, Redlands, CA 923173, 909-798-7565

Michael Wright, 956 Lisson Crescent, Richmond, VA 23234, 804-279-4881

We are very saddened to report the death of Mamie Gertz, wife of Round Table founding member Elmer Gertz. She died in early November while undergoing heart surgery. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Elmer and his family. Cards and messages of condolence may be sent to Elmer at his home, 6249 North Albany, Chicago, Illinois 60659.

Member Karen Krieger will address the luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Monday, December 29. Her topic will be "Colonel Francis T. Sherman and the 88th Illinois Infantry." (This was the 2nd Board of Trade regiment.) A reception begins at the Union League Club at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

* * *

Congratulations to the Baltimore Civil War Round Table, which celebrated its fifteenth anniversary on October 25!