



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LI, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 1990

## Richard Alden Huebner on "The Meserve Civil War Record"

by Barbara Hughett

William Neal Meserve was a Union soldier who kept field diaries, vividly recounting his battle experiences at Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, and Antietam, where he was wounded. Meserve was twenty-two in July of 1862, when he joined Company K, 35th Regiment, Massachusetts Infantry Volunteers, as a sergeant. He was with the 35th until November 1864 when he joined the 4th Regiment, Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, where he remained for the balance of the war.

Through the diaries and the stories his father told him, Meserve's oldest son, Frederick Hill, "tasted the smoke and heard the cannon." This experience inspired Frederick to make his life's work the collection of more than 200,000 photographs and negatives of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. Part of this collection is now in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., which opened its Meserve Gallery in 1982.



Richard Alden Huebner

With Frederick's encouragement and assistance, the elder Meserve wrote a book about his Civil War years. By 1902, the manuscript, *War Record of William N. Meserve*, was completed in two volumes, handwritten, with pictures pasted in place. It was never published. Father and son each had a copy. One of those copies was inherited by William Meserve's great-grandson, Richard Alden Huebner. In 1982, Huebner, a music teacher in Oak Park, Michigan, began work on publishing the manuscript. *The Meserve Civil War Record* was published in 1988 in a limited edition.

Eight years after he began this project, Huebner's enthusiasm for it has not abated. As a result of inheriting the manuscript and accomplishing its publication, he became a student of the Civil War and the life of his great-grandfather. He learned about family roots and history at battlefields, libraries, and archives in several states. Huebner supervised the layout, typesetting, and printing of the volume. His goal was to produce "a handsome book" that readers could open at any spot and enjoy.

In addition to the manuscript of William Neal Meserve, the book includes extensive appendices, a detailed chronology of Meserve until his death in 1928, and the history of the manuscript and its authentication. It contains a generous selection of photographs and illustrations, as well as regimental rosters and histories.

Richard Alden Huebner will give a presentation on



493rd Regular Meeting

\*\*\*

Richard Alden Huebner  
on  
"The Meserve Civil War Record"

\*\*\*

Friday, September 14, 1990

\*\*\*

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza  
350 North Orleans Street  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$17.50 per person

Entree: Roast Round of Beef, Fish, or Fruit Plate



### Meeting Site

The September meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street. The command post will be in Mad Anthony's Lounge on the 15th floor; dinner will be at Button's, which is adjacent to Mad Anthony's.

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. Have your ticket validated by the bartender at Mad Anthony's.

"The Meserve Civil War Record" at the September 14th meeting of The Civil War Round Table. He describes his presentation as a "multi-media tapestry of words, music, and pictures." Inspirational Civil War songs, spine-tingling bugle calls, and drum rolls will merge with special color slides to enhance an event- and fact-filled forty-five minutes. Featured will be the reading of his great-grandfather's personal account of the Battle at Antietam Creek and the Burnside Bridge. Meserve said that his "great-grandfather's wounds and his story of that 'bloodiest day' never cease to remind me that the American Civil War was the occasion of our country's greatest human tragedy."



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

357 West Chicago Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60610  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

## Officers

President .....	David R. Richert
Senior Vice President .....	Joseph L. Wisheart
Vice President .....	Mary Munsell Abroe
Vice President .....	Hal Ardell
Secretary .....	Marlan H. Polhemus
Treasurer .....	Kurt Carlson
Assistant Secretary .....	Robert Schell
Assistant Treasurer .....	Dale Weitman
Inspector General .....	James Soens
Registrar .....	Joan Carlson
Newsletter Editor .....	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors .....	Mary Munsell Abroe, C. Robert Douglas, David Richert

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

## Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1991: Wayne Anderson, John M. Coverick, Sr., Robert Girardi, Steven Horton

Terms expiring in 1992: Carole Ciernak, L. Bradford Gregg, Adrienne Hanrahan, Joyce Warsaw

## Committee Chairmen

Battlefield Tour .....	Kurt Carlson Richard McAdoo
Nevins-Freeman .....	Margaret April
Membership .....	Daniel R. Weinberg
Hospitality .....	Robert Schell, Barbara Hughett
Nominating .....	Richard McAdoo
Publications/Archives .....	Jerry Warsaw
Honors .....	Don Anderson
Battlefield Preservation .....	Robert Girardi
Tape Record Librarian .....	Hal Ardell
Fiftieth Anniversary .....	Paul Kliger
House .....	Steve Horton
Picnic .....	Paul Kleckner

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.



**The Fifth Annual Lincoln Colloquium**, of which the Lincoln Home National Historic Site is the principal sponsor, will take place on Saturday, October 20th, from 11:15 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., at Sangamon State University in Springfield, Illinois. Speakers will include Edwin C. Bearss, William E. Gienapp, Harold Holzer, Robert W. Johannsen, and Mark E. Neely, Jr. The registration fee, which includes a luncheon, is \$17.00. Checks should be made payable to Eastern National Park and Monument Association, with the word "colloquium" written on the memo line of the check. Mail registration fees to: Lincoln Colloquium, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 413 S. Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701. For further information, contact George Painter at (217)491-4150.

## Battlefield Preservation Report

By Mary Munsell Abroe

The proposed Shenandoah Valley Civil War Sites Study Act (S. 1770 in the Senate, H.R. 3513 in the House), which was the subject of this report last June, is alive and well in the Senate and it has a new title reflecting an expanded mandate. As originally envisioned by its cosponsors (Democrat Charles Robb and Republican John Warner of Virginia, Democrat Patrick Leahy and Republican James Jeffords of Vermont), the bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to prepare and submit to Congress a study of the current condition of key Shenandoah Valley battle sites. The need for such a study is painfully clear. The report on the bill by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources states: "Until recently, most of the... Valley battle sites have remained in the same type of agricultural use since the war... However, increasing development has begun to threaten the integrity of these (largely unprotected) sites. S. 1770 will allow the Civil War sites in the Shenandoah Valley to be studied in an expeditious manner to determine what sites should be protected... and what form of preservation and interpretation would be most appropriate."

Having been introduced in October 1989, the bill was under consideration by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources when Dale Bumpers (D-Arkansas), committee member and battlefield preservation advocate, offered an amendment that greatly expanded the scope of the initial legislation. The amendment called for establishment of a commission to study the status of *all* Civil War sites, including existing units of the National Park System. Upon completion of the two-year study, the commission would report to the President and Congress on threats to battlefield integrity and on potential federal, state, and local government preservation alternatives. The bill as amended, with a new title—The Civil War Sites Study Act of 1990—and with the original Shenandoah Valley study provisions intact, was approved by the Committee on May 23. According to William Kenny, aide to Senator Jeffords, the measure is on the Senate calendar and probably will be considered before the end of the current session.

The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission established by this legislation is to consist of thirteen members, including five presidential appointees who are nationally recognized experts and authorities on Civil War history. The Commission is empowered to hire an executive director and other staff to help carry out its mandate, which is strictly one of *offering recommendations*. Finally, the bill provides for the appropriation of \$2 million for implementation.

In late July, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced his own proposal for preserving imperiled Civil War battlefields. Stressing the key component of *planned* preservation ventures based on *cooperation* among federal, state and local governments and private-sector preservation agencies. Lujan stated that the national government cannot afford to buy *all* of the threatened sites. His "American Battlefield Protection Plan," which would focus initially on twenty-five "priority" battlefields, included the following elements: 1) encouraging "creative public and private land-use tools" such as zoning, easements, and historic district designations to curtail development; 2) dispensing information on public and private preservation efforts; 3) using limited federal monies to encourage land purchases by

(continued on page 4)



## June Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

High atop Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains is a holy place known as the Medicine Wheel. Created by Indian tribes of the area, the 150-foot diameter circle of stones has a large central cairn with twenty-eight lines radiating like spokes from its center. It is used to explain the universe and human life in unifying terms. The west side of the Wheel is the "Looks-Within Place," representing the introspective nature of humankind; the east side is the "Place of Illumination," where we can see everything clearly. The south side is the "Place of Innocence and Trust" and the north side is the "Place of Wisdom," where one may know that trust is not always appropriate. It is suggested that each person is born into the world at some point within the Medicine Wheel. Though our starting place determines our natural predilections and our instinctive way of perceiving the world, if we stay in that starting place we will remain incomplete. The quest of life is to attain completeness and balance by seeking experience at many points on and within the Medicine Wheel.

It was with this metaphor that Jerry L. Rogers began his address, before sixty-one members and guests, at the 492nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on June 8th. A National Park Service employee since 1967, Rogers has served as Associate Director for Cultural Resources and Keeper of the National Register since 1983. His topic was "The Invisible Consensus: A Proposal for the Protection of Battlefield Parks and Other Resources." Rogers believes that the message contained in the Medicine Wheel story can be applied to our park system, including our national battlefield parks. "We are and we want to be," he stated, "centers of the worlds within which we work, but our centers are often far off to one side or another of the Medicine Wheel. Parks now have major effects upon the non-park world and clearly the non-park world has major and often threatening effects upon us. We must learn to better understand these forces and to make them understand us." Rogers believes that only by working together can private, local, and state preservation groups and the National Park Service effectively find solutions to some of the problems facing our national parks.

The problems are significant ones. Atmospheric pollution, which kills forests and poisons waters, also accelerates the deterioration of building materials. The 2200 statues, monuments, and memorials in our national parks suffer the same fate as the tens of thousands in town squares and cemeteries throughout the nation. A statue or building, which at one time would have lasted ten generations, will bear up for only six generations, at most, under today's acid rain conditions. Because of escalating costs, many of these treasures, if lost, will not be replaced.

A combination of population growth and increased mobility is gravely endangering our natural resources. Rogers warned that, although the worst impact of the Baby Boom upon housing and other development may be drawing to a close, the effects of demographic change occur over a very long period of time. Unless we act positively now, he fears that "many more small historic towns will grow into metropolises, many more historic battlefields and archeological sites will become subdivisions and shopping malls, and far more watershed, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty will be lost before the desperate fathering of the 1940s has run its full course."

In the meantime, his recommendation is to use the

tools-at-hand. Some of these tools, he said, are underestimated. He stated that the "historic preservation programs the National Park Service has developed in partnership with state and local governments and the private sector have achieved a strength and sophistication that are fully understood by few." It was this partnership that rose up nationwide and forced Congress to rescue the Manassas battlefield. It is Rogers' goal to "bring this federal/state/local/private partnership to a point where it can more effectively protect units of the National Park System."

What does the National Park Service have to offer the partners in return? "The Service," Rogers maintained, "has experience and expertise in managing cultural resources... and it occupies the single focal point of all official historic preservation activity in the United States. This enables us to understand and to find solutions to historic preservation problems on a scale several times broader than anyone else." In closing his talk, he noted the enormous battles in public policy and budgetary priority yet to be fought. "Let us keep our force together," he urged, "rally, and defend every ally, and support the full range of America's natural, scenic, recreational, and historic heritage."

---

### Moments in Round Table History

*September, 1944:* Founding member Elmer Gertz speaks on "Some Aspects of Civil War Journalism."

*September 22, 1950:* Benjamin P. Thomas speaks on "Freedom's Firebrand—Theodore Weld."

*September 28, 1957:* Joint meeting with the Springfield Civil War Round Table, with Governor William G. Stratton speaking on "U.S. Grant."

*September, 1959:* First issue of the monthly newsletter of The Civil War Round Table, originated by founding editor Gil Twiss, a copy editor for the *Chicago Tribune*.

*September 22, 1962:* Joint meeting with the Chicago Historical Society, in honor of the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation. Bell I. Wiley speaks on "Kingdom Coming."

*September 13, 1968:* First dinner meeting quiz, created by Marshall Krolick. Lloyd D. Miller speaks on "The Union Left—The Second Day at Gettysburg."

*September 29-October 1, 1972:* Special battlefield tour to the "Kentucky Bluegrass" area.

*September 15, 1984:* Nevins-Freeman Award presentation moves from June to September. The Second Annual Nevins-Freeman Assembly honors Richard B. Harwell.

*September 20, 1985:* Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner honoring John Y. Simon, who speaks on "Editing the Papers of U.S. Grant."

---

**The Eighth Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show** will be held on Saturday, September 15th, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the DuPage County Fair Grounds in Wheaton, Illinois. For additional information, contact Robert Nowak, 3238 North Central Park Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60618, (312)539-8432.

---

**A reminder:** It is not too late to register for the "Historic Costume and Reproduction and Interpretation" workshop being held October 5-7 at the Illinois State Museum in Springfield. Contact Ruth Truett, Old State Capitol, Springfield, Illinois 62701.



# The New Books

compiled by C. Robert Douglas



*Among the Cotton Thieves: Memoir of Col. Edward Bacon—6th Michigan Infantry Regiment.* 1990. The Everett Companies, Publishing Division, P.O. Box 5376, Bossier City, LA 71171-5376. \$19.95. Original of 1867.

Brandt, Nat. *The Town That Started the Civil War.* (Oberlin, Ohio). 1990. Syracuse University Press. \$29.95.

Byrne, Frank L. & Andrew T. Weaver. *Haskell of Gettysburg: His Life and Civil War Papers.* 1989. Kent State University Press. Pbk. \$12.50.

Coryell, Janet L. *Neither Heroine Nor Fool: Anna Ella Carroll of Maryland.* 1990. Kent State University Press. \$22.00.

Lassell, Lynda, ed. *The Papers of Jefferson Davis: January 6, 1856-December 28, 1860.* LSU Press. \$55.00.

Rable, George C. *Civil Wars: Women and the Crisis of Southern Nationalism.* 1989. University of Illinois Press. \$29.95.

Schiller, Herbert M., ed. *Autobiography of Major General William F. "Baldy" Smith.* 1990. Morningside Bookshop. \$24.95.

(continued from page 2)

private preservation associations; and 4) devising a national strategy to preserve other important sites that are not threatened immediately, but may be in the future. The Secretary revealed his intention to seek \$15 million in Interior appropriations as "seed money."

When questioned about the compatibility of these two federal initiatives, A. Wilson Greene (executive director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites) responded that they can work hand-in-hand. Greene termed Secretary Lujan's recent indication that he would like to see the noted \$15 million used to help implement the recommendations of the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission an "exciting" development. In effect, these funds could carry the preservation process begun by the Civil War Sites Study Act *one step further* by providing the financial resources to protect specific areas through various methods.

As Will Greene has observed, the fact of a Republican administration and congressional Democrats working together toward *effective* Civil War battlefield preservation is a promising sign. Still, the Civil War Sites Study Act of 1990 is not yet a law, nor has funding been authorized for Secretary Lujan's "American Battlefield Protection Plan." In this sphere the American public—especially that segment committed to the study of the Civil War—plays a key role.

Please support this critical legislation (*be sure to refer to it by number*) and the Secretary's proposal in letters to Illinois Senators Paul Simon and Alan Dixon (Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510) and your own congressman (House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515). Residents of other states may reach their congressmen at the above addresses. Such action is our responsibility, and ours alone. Take the responsibility seriously, and use this opportunity well!

## BULLETIN BOARD



### Future Meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

September 14: Richard Alden Huebner on "The Meserve Civil War Record." **(The September meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza.)**

October 12-14: **50th Anniversary celebration. Sheraton Inn, North, Northbrook, IL.**

November 9: William L. Burton on "Ethnic Soldiers in the Union Army."

December 14: C. Robert Douglas on "Granny Lee: Fiasco in Western Virginia." **(The December meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza.)**

January 11, 1991: Marshall Krolick, Nevins-Freeman Address.

February 8: Jay Luvaas on "How Modern Military Officers Learn from Civil War Battles."

March 8: Gerald A. Regan on "The 'Walk' of Correspondents Browne, Davis, and Richardson: 340 Miles to Freedom."

April 12: A. Wilson Greene on "The 11th Corps on the First Day at Gettysburg."

May 10: Michael Hughes on "The Battle of Chattanooga."

June 14: Jean Baker on "Mary Todd Lincoln."

### New Members

Ray Crabtree, 2259 S. St. Louis, Tulsa, OK 74114, (918)747-1540

Tom Kane, 124 Phillips, Box 648, Walworth, WI 53184, (414)275-5262

David Manteufel, 9001 E. Prairie Rd., Evanston, IL 60203, (708)679-1728

Roy L. Sanford, 1943 Buckingham, Mundelein, IL 60060, (708)949-8492

Faye Schwimmer, 1040 N. Lake Shore Dr., #19-C, Chicago, IL 60611, (312)944-3490

Barry Taper, 807 N. Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210, (213)272-1222

Louise Taper, 807 N. Crescent Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210, (213)272-1222

### Changes of Address

Maxwell S. Austin, 50147 Heifer Blvd., Wixom, MI 48393

Keith Cantine, 836 S. Laflin, Chicago, IL 60607

Ella Clausius, 1151 Nettie St., #306, Belvidere, IL 61008

C.C. Odom, II, 161 E. Chicago Ave., #48-C, Chicago, IL 60611

William C. Vinck, 3621 Lake St., Burlington, WI 53105, (414)767-0113

Gordon Whitney, 2248 Westchester Blvd., Spring Hill, FL 34606, (904)666-0190

Steven D. Ziegler, 113-1/2 N. Mill St., Apt. B, P.O. Box 67, Pontiac, IL 61764, (815)844-7101