

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LII, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

January 1992

Karen K. Osborne and Virginia G. Crane on “A Woman’s War: Two Perspectives—North and South”

by Barbara Hughett

Summarizing her experience of the American Civil War, Maria Lydig Daly wrote, “Those who read the history of these times one hundred years hence will be able to appreciate its great historical importance. We are too near at present.” Daly was both correct and incorrect, for although Americans have remained mesmerized by the great national drama of the Civil War, their view has been limited. The images which they study are too often only those of military and political spectacles. Women have generally moved upon the stage of that era as shadowy figures—barely seen, rarely recognized, and of little consideration. Yet, they too experienced the war with its glories, triumphs, defeats, and national and personal sorrows.

“A Woman’s War: Two Perspectives—North and South” will be the topic of Karen K. Osborne and Virginia G. Crane when they address The Civil War Round Table on January 10. They will seek to illuminate those shadowy female figures and the roles they played on the stage of Civil War history. They will concentrate on the experiences of two women—one from the North, one from the South—both of whom wrote extensive diaries during the war.

Maria Lydig Daly was descended from three wealthy New York families. She married Judge Charles Daly, a Copperhead, who became one of New York’s most well-known jurists. Mary Boykin Chesnut, born into the aristocratic class of South Carolina, married James Chesnut, a plantation owner and politician. Chesnut enjoyed literature and Daly the artists and playwrights of New York’s cultural district. The Daly’s marriage was one of love and closeness; the Chesnut’s relationship was one of distance. Both women were involved in war work—as hospital volunteers and in fundraising efforts.



Virginia G. Crane and Karen K. Osborne



507th Regular Meeting

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Karen K. Osborne and Virginia G. Crane
on
“A Woman’s War:
Two Perspectives—North and South.”

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Friday, January 10, 1992

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Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street
Buttons—15th floor

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

\$17.50 per person

Entree: Turkey Medallions with Lobster Sauce,
Orange Roughy, or Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, January 8. Mail the enclosed postcard or call the book shop at (312) 944-3085.

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.

The diaries of Daly and Chesnut contain startling observations about women and women’s lives in the 1860s. One could hardly call them feminists by today’s standards, but they were far from the silently submissive women of the “cult of true womanhood” which twentieth-century people have come to expect of women in the nineteenth century.

The study presented by Osborne and Crane will compare the lives of these two upper-class white women, searching for points of similarity and departure in their attitudes and experiences. They will question whether

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
357 West Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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 Dan Weinberg, 357 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60610.



Ken Burns' highly-acclaimed miniseries, "The Civil War," will appear again on channel 11 on January 5-9, in conjunction with the PBS station's fundraising drive. Members of The Civil War Round Table will be answering phones in the television studio on Wednesday, January 8, from 7:45-11:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, call Round Table President Joseph Wisehart at (708) 367-1171 (days) or (708) 304-1053 (evenings).

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA) filed suit in late October against the National Park Service and Gettysburg College seeking the complete restoration of a historic railroad cut partially destroyed during the relocation of tracks earlier this year. The suit also seeks \$12 million in punitive damages. The cut was partly removed during bulldozing when the College undertook to push the Gettysburg Railroad back from the midst of the campus. The cut was given to the college by the Park Service in 1990 in return for a historic easement on 46 acres of playing fields.

According to William Frassanito, GBPA treasurer, the college pressured the Park Service into the deal by threatening to withdraw support for the park's new boundary. Once the Park Service agreed to the deal, he says, they and the college engaged in a "conspiracy" to avoid a series of required historical and environmental reviews at the local, state, and federal levels that would have shown the cut was too valuable to be destroyed.

If the suit is successful, the college would pay for the restoration of the cut and the Park Service would oversee it. The \$12 million award would be used to establish a trust fund to provide for a pool of attorneys which would be available to preservation groups nationwide. Such groups are often unable to oppose illegal destruction of historic properties because of a lack of money.

The Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation (CCBF) recently received a \$25,000 check from the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites to be used to retire the deeds of trust on the 158-acre parcel that the foundation purchased a couple of years ago. The APCWS pledged that every year the foundation attracts 10 new donations of \$2,500 or more, it will give them a check for \$25,000, up to \$100,000. APCWS Executive Director A. Wilson Greene, in presenting the check, said "We believe it's a very important battlefield and the APCWS wants to support local groups like the CCBF because they help to carry part of the load, and that makes our dollars go farther."

Hansborough's Ridge, near Brandy Station, Virginia, has been designated a Virginia Historic Landmark by the Virginia State Board of Historic Resources, and the Virginia State Historic Review Board has approved an application by the Brandy Station Foundation for National Register eligibility and forwarded it to Washington for review. Hansborough's Ridge and the surrounding area is where the Army of the Potomac spent the winter of 1863-64. The effort to preserve Brandy Station and obtain landmark status is being led by Clark "Bud" Hall and the Brandy Station Foundation.

The Brandy Station Foundation application for the National Register notes that the "high integrity" of the site offers "an invaluable opportunity" to learn a myriad of facts about camp organization, including the precise location of regiments and even companies, hut construction and alignment, camp sanitation and fortifications, and perhaps even the sites of chapels and theaters "which played such a large role in the spiritual and recreational lives of the soldiers during the winter of 1863-64." *(continued on page 3)*

❧ DECEMBER MEETING ❧

by Barbara Hughett

With the construction of monuments at Yorktown, Monmouth, Saratoga, and other fields of the American Revolution, the United States government began its commitment to preserving historic battlefields. During the 1890s, federal involvement grew as a network of national military parks was established to preserve six major Civil War battlefields. What circumstances of contemporary American life moved private citizens *and* the national government to mark and preserve historic battlefields generally, and Civil War fields specifically? Civil War scholar Mary Munsell Abroe, instructor of history at Loyola University and Round Table senior vice president, addressed this question on December 13, when she spoke before 72 members and guests at the 506th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. Her topic was "Battlefield Commemoration and Preservation: The Reason Why—1863-1890."

Motivation for commemorating and preserving historic battlefield sites was related to the fact that during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, wars in which the United States was involved were fought principally on American soil. These conflicts included the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Indian Wars, and the Civil War.

Although the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, one of the country's first historic preservation groups, was founded in the midst of the Civil War, the movement to preserve and memorialize battlefields, *with federal participation*, began during the 1870s. "Many Americans of that period," Abroe noted, "had ancestors who had participated in the Revolution, and virtually all had themselves lived through the Civil War. As onetime National Park Service Chief Historian Ronald Lee put it: 'The great issues of those wars were part of their lives and to them preserving and marking the major battlefields was a national obligation.'"

Though Civil War fields were memorialized more extensively, a concerted effort within the private sector to mark and erect monuments on major Revolutionary fields arose in conjunction with the centennial of the American Revolution in the late 1870s. Congress participated in a limited way by appropriating funds to help construct monuments on eight fields in six states. Attempts to obtain Congressional funding for further projects on Revolutionary sites were not successful. Eventually, though, along with the construction of monuments, the establishment of national military reservations on specific Civil War battlefields came to be the vehicle by which Americans of the 1890s fulfilled their perceived patriotic responsibility.

"There also arose," Abroe emphasized, "an interest in marking Civil War fields for military purposes and scientific study during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries." During that time, scientific accuracy in the study of history was being emphasized in the United States. Great importance was attached to detailed and accurate documentation and the mapping and marking of exact troop locations on the battlefields.

The social milieu of the Victorian era favored the commemorative impulse. Victorian cemeteries, with their elaborate monuments, testify to the era's interest in sentimentality and commemoration. Thus, it is not surprising that Civil War battlefields became "favored sites where

profound, communal emotions were expressed through the erection of monuments."

The political environment also provided a favorable atmosphere for these endeavors. Veterans' organizations, such as the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) and the United Confederate Veterans (U.C.V.), lobbied federal and state governments, urging commemoration and preservation of Civil War battlefields. Politicians in power during this period were receptive to such efforts. With the exception of Grover Cleveland (who hired a substitute), every president from Ulysses S. Grant through William McKinley had fought in the war and was a member of the G.A.R. Union and Confederate veterans were serving in both houses of Congress by the 1870s.

Late in 1889, the Chickamauga Memorial Association began to lobby for the marking and preservation of the Chickamauga battlefield. This effort soon encompassed veterans of both armies in a joint memorial association. Following a massive Blue-Gray reunion at Chickamauga in 1889, the preservation campaign gained momentum. Legislation authorizing the establishment of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park moved through Congress unopposed and was signed by President Benjamin Harrison on August 19, 1890. Other fields designated as national parks in that last decade of the nineteenth century were Shiloh (1894), Gettysburg (1895), and Vicksburg (1899). Antietam was set aside as a national battlefield site in 1890.

In closing, Abroe observed that, by the turn of the century, "the meaning of the Civil War experience had been written by its generation on the fields of that struggle through the marking and preservation of said fields. In the process, that generation also displayed key values of late nineteenth-century American life and established a solid basis for the future development of our national military park network."

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The Society of Port Republic Preservationists has launched a fundraising campaign to purchase and renovate the "Turner Ashby House" in the heart of Port Republic, Virginia. The house, Siler's Inn, is where Ashby's body lay in state after he was killed on June 6, 1862. It is hoped that with the purchase of the house, a significant historic site will be preserved to provide suitable quarters for a museum and visitor center. The Society must raise \$95,000 by February 15, 1992 to acquire the structure. Tax deductible contributions can be sent to SPRP, P.O. Box 82, Port Republic, VA 24471.

The United States Department of the Interior recently awarded a grant to the City of Perryville and the Perryville Battlefield Preservation Association to help finance the preparation of a cultural resources management plan for the Perryville Battlefield. This will include a comprehensive mapping of the battlefield, an analysis of the historic value of the lands and structures thereon, and a plan for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of the Perryville Battlefield, site of the largest and most sanguinary engagement on Kentucky soil during the Civil War. This public-private partnership project is part of Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan's American Battlefield Protection Plan.

The New Books

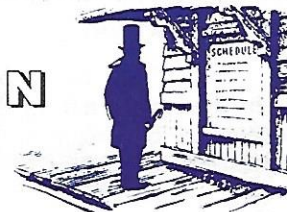
Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Ballard, Michael B. *Pemberton: A Biography*. University of Mississippi Press. 1991. \$29.50.
- Baquet, Camille. *History of the First Brigade, New Jersey Volunteers, From 1861-1865*. Stan Clark Military Books, 915 Fairview Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325. \$32.50. Original of 1910.
- Benedict, Michael L. *The Fruits of Victory: Alternatives in Restoring the Union 1865-1877*. University Press of America. 1986. Pbk. \$12.00. Original of 1975.
- Bergeron, Arthur W., Jr. *Confederate Mobile*. University of Mississippi Press. 1991. \$29.50.
- Bridges, Hal. *Lee's Maverick General: Daniel Harvey Hill*. University of Nebraska Press. 1991. Pbk. \$11.95. Original of 1961.
- Castel, Albert. *William Clarke Quantrill: His Life and Times*. Camp Chase Publ. Co., Box 707C, Marietta, OH 45750. \$19.95. Original of 1962.
- Chamlee, Roy A. *Lincoln's Assassins: A Complete Account of Their Capture, Trial and Punishment*. McFarland and Co., Inc., Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640. 1990. \$49.95.
- Daniel, Larry J. *Soldiering in the Army of Tennessee: A Portrait of Life in a Confederate Army*. University of North Carolina Press. 1991. \$22.50.
- Dawson, Sarah Morgan. *A Confederate Girl's Diary*. Edited by Charles East. University of Georgia Press. 1991. \$34.95. Original of 1913.
- DeRosa, Marshall L. *The Confederate Constitution of 1861: An Inquiry into American Constitutionalism*. University of Missouri Press. 1991. \$32.50; pbk. \$14.95.
- Evans, Thomas J. and James M. Moyer. *Mosby's Confederacy: A Guide to the Roads and Sites of Colonel John Singleton Mosby*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1991. \$29.95.
- Gallman, J. Matthew. *Mastering Wartime: A Social History of Philadelphia During the Civil War*. Cambridge University Press. 1990. \$49.50.
- Hall, Isaac. *History of the Ninety-Seventh Regiment New York Volunteers ("Conkling Rifles")*. Butternut and Blue. 1991. \$35.00. Original of 1890.
- Horn, Stanley F. *The Decisive Battle of Nashville*. LSU Press. 1991. Pbk. \$8.95. Original of 1956.
- Hughes, Nathaniel C., Jr. *The Battle of Belmont: Grant Strikes South*. University of North Carolina Press. 1991. \$24.95.
- Jervey, Edward D., ed. *Prison Life Among the Rebels: Recollections of a Union Chaplain by Henry S. White*. Kent State University Press. 1990. \$26.00; pbk. \$12.50.
- Linenthal, Edward T. *Sacred Ground: Americans and Their Battlefields*. University of Illinois Press. 1991. \$29.95.

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 January meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling.

BULLETIN BOARD



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 N. Orleans (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

- January 10:* Karen K. Osborne and Virginia Crane on "A Woman's War: Two Perspectives—North and South."
- February 14:* W. Glenn Robertson on "General Thomas J. Wood at Chickamauga: The Fatal Order Revisited."
- March 13:* Herman Hattaway on "How They Teach Civil War History at West Point."
- April 10:* Dennis Frye on "Mosby vs. Sheridan in the Shenandoah."
- April 30-May 3:* Annual battlefield tour—Gettysburg.
- May 8:* Lawrence Hewitt on "Port Hudson: The Most Photographed Battlefield of the Civil War."
- June 12:* Steven Newton on "Joseph E. Johnston: Rationalizations, Ego, and Politics After the Battle of Seven Pines."

New Members

- John E. Horn, 6612 Linden Drive, Oak Forest, IL 60452, (708) 687-1699
- Jerry F. Sudderth, White Rock Otolaryngology Associates, 1110 N. Buckner Blvd., Dallas, TX 75218
- William A. Tate, 1140 N. LaSalle #511, Chicago, IL 60610, (312) 280-6947

Change of Address

John S. Reinhardt, 1600 Sunset #202, Waukegan, IL 60087

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sectional differences were the main focus of these two lives or whether, as Mary Boykin Chesnut suggested, "Women . . . are the same everywhere."

Karen Osborne holds a bachelor of music education degree from Milton College and has recently completed work for a bachelor of arts in history degree at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh. She plays clarinet with the First Brigade Band of Milwaukee, an organization which is a recreation of the band which marched with General William T. Sherman in the campaigns of 1864-65. Osborne is the author of several articles and a miniature book, *Mother Bickerdyke: Civil War Mother to the Boys* (1991). She has spoken to The Round Table on three previous occasions, most recently in December 1988 when her topic was "A Civil War Christmas."

Virginia Crane, professor of history at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, received her bachelor's degree from King College, her master's degree from Columbia College, and her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. Her most recent publication is "The Lynches of South Carolina: Traditional Elite and the New Family History" in *The American Family: Historical Perspectives* (1991). She is currently writing a book, with a working title of *James Hamilton, Jr.: Nullification Governor of South Carolina*.