

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LIII, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 1993

Frances H. Kennedy on "The Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation"

by Barbara Hughett

The preservation of our American Civil War battlefields began with the veterans of that conflict. It's been over a hundred years since Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park became the first Civil War battlefield to be administered by the federal government. Those of us who study the era appreciate the importance of preserving those physical places where American Civil War history happened. Unfortunately, much of this "hallowed ground" has been bulldozed away and covered with housing developments or shopping malls.

In recent years, several organizations have sprung up to spearhead the movement to save the battlefields by building rational strategies for the future so that we can fight land developers and beat them at their own game, using modern technology and legislative techniques. One such organization is The Conservation Fund, which was established to work with public and private partners to save important historic areas, as well as wildlife and waterfowl habitat. As part of its strategic efforts to protect our ties to the history of our nation, The Conservation Fund launched the Civil War Battlefield Campaign, a multiyear project aimed at protecting Civil War sites.

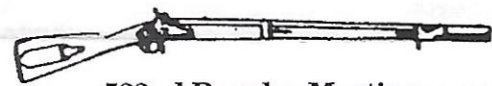
Through a program of land acquisition and protection, the Campaign is helping to preserve the unique opportunity that each of us has to be a part of our own history, to the study events of an era "right there where it all happened." The Conservation Fund's Civil War Battlefield Campaign has effectively worked in partnership with individuals, foundations, corporations, and nonprofit organizations to protect "hallowed ground" on twenty-one battlefields over the past three years.

The cultural benefits are easily recognizable, but are there economic benefits to battlefield preservation—and if so, what are they? On June 11, Frances H. Kennedy will address that question when she speaks to The Round Table on "The Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation." Kennedy, director of the Civil War Battlefield Campaign of The Conservation Fund, is the author of a soon-to-be-released publication on the subject.

Prior to becoming director of



Frances H. Kennedy



522nd Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

Frances H. Kennedy on "The Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation"

☆ ☆ ☆

Friday, June 11

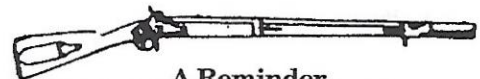
☆ ☆ ☆

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza
350 North Orleans Street

Sauganash Ballroom, 14th floor

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

Entree: London Broil, Orange Roughy,
or Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, June 9. 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 Campaign in 1988, Frances Kennedy served as administrator of the National Park Trust of the National Parks and Conservation Association, and as an administrator and consultant for several educational organizations. She holds a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University, as well as a master's degree from the University of Minnesota. She is the editor of *The Civil War Battlefield Guide* (1990), the co-author of *READSPELL* (1989), and the author of numerous articles for historical periodicals and professional journals.

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

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

Officers

President	Mary Munsell Abroe
Senior Vice President	Kurt Carlson
Vice President	Barbara Hughett
Vice President	John M. Coverick, Sr.
Secretary	Ted Birndorf
Treasurer	Carole Cierniak
Assistant Secretary	Joyce Warshaw
Assistant Treasurer	Steven Horton
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Joan Carlson
Tour Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert
Founding Newsletter Editor:	Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1993:	Robert Girardi, Michael Marienthal, Norman Potesman, Dale Weitman
Terms expiring in 1994:	Charles Bednar, Robert Dawson, Adrienne Hanrahan, James Nethery

Committee Chairs

Battlefield Tour	Carole Cierniak Marvin Sanderman
Nevins-Freeman Award	David Richert
Membership	Daniel R. Weinberg
Hospitality	Susan Phillips Robert Schell
Nominating	Joseph L. Wisheart
Field Artist/Archives	Jerry Warshaw
Honors	Paul I. Klinger
Publicity/Public Relations	Roger Bohn, Joyce Warshaw Charles Shields William Hupp
Battlefield Preservation and Schimmelfenning Boutique	Ted Birndorf
Tape Record Librarian	Hal Ardell
House	Charles Bednar Larry Gibbs
Picnic	Paul Klekner

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.



Hal Ardell, longtime member and Round Table tape record librarian, will be awarded the third annual Al Meyer Award, bestowed for outstanding service to The Civil War Round Table, at the June 11 meeting. In addition to preparing professional audio tapes of each monthly address and making tape cassettes available to members, Hal accomplished the difficult and painstaking task of restoring many of our old meeting tapes from the 1950s and 1960s.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The National Park Service has proposed a plan for preservation of the USS *Cairo* at Vicksburg National Military Park. Key components include reconfiguring existing roof sheathing and structural space framing to provide more efficient shelter from driving rain and to discourage roosting of birds; treating extant historic wood and cast iron to provide protection from insects, wind, and rain; preparation of preservation guidelines and development of a cyclic maintenance program for the historic and contemporary fabric; and providing an exhibit specialist to implement ongoing preservation and maintenance programs. The cost of the plan is about \$1.4 million.

The *Cairo* is deteriorating because of a poorly designed roof system that fails to shelter the ship from wind and rain and that also acts as a roost for pigeons and other birds. There is also a lack of treatment guidelines and maintenance personnel to compensate for natural aging and changes in the wood composition due to the USS *Cairo* being submerged for 100 years.

The USS *Cairo* Preservation Plan will be presented to Mississippi Senator Trent Lott. Working with Senator Lott, the National Park Service will explore funding sources for implementing the plan. Elements that can be accomplished with existing Park Service resources will be undertaken as soon as the opportunity arises.

Gettysburg National Military Park will be able to implement its landscape development plan for the Gettysburg National Cemetery Annex thanks to a contribution by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. The landscaping will include a bronze monument portraying Union Captain Henry H. Bingham and Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead, as well new fencing, sidewalks, and a plaza entrance. The cost of nearly \$1 million will be borne entirely by the Masons.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has received a \$9000 grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council to finance research on the Civil War in Arkansas as part of the AHPP's Civil War Heritage Trail project. The research will result in a publication on the Civil War in the state. The information will also be used to interpret battlefields and other Civil War-related properties.

Houston businessman John L. Mau III has underwritten the cleaning and repainting of each cast iron plaque marking the positions of Texas units on the battlefield at Shiloh. The plaques date from the late 1890s when the early park commission made up of veterans of the battle designed a system of more than 475 markers to tell the story of each unit involved. Park budget cuts led to neglect of needed preservation work. Refurbishing the markers in time for the park's 100th anniversary on December 27, 1994, has been made a top priority. The cost of cleaning and repainting each plaque is about \$35. Persons interested in helping underwrite maintenance costs should contact Superintendent Woody Harrell, PO Box 61, Shiloh, TN 38376.

The Friends of Shiloh Battlefield has been organized to provide support for commemoration, preservation, and educational activities. For information write Friends of Shiloh Battlefield, PO Box 100, Shiloh, TN 38376.

☪ MAY MEETING ☪

by Barbara Hughett

Nowhere today in the South—or in the entire nation—will one find a statue of Confederate General James Longstreet. Although he played a crucial role in the American Civil War, Longstreet's reputation became damaged in a way which kept his image off of pedestals, and his name out of the pantheon of Confederate heroes. Historian William G. Piston spoke on May 14, before 120 members and guests, at the 521st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. His topic was "Clio and the General: James Longstreet and the Writing of Southern History."

"Longstreet's place in Southern history," Piston stressed, "has been shaped by many factors. Of particular importance, however, was his membership in the Republican party during Reconstruction. In addition, there was the long-running controversy over the Battle of Gettysburg, in which he was blamed not only for losing the battle, but also for losing the war itself. As a result, Longstreet has the image not of a hero, but a villain, even a Judas. He stands as a dark brooding presence behind the saber-wielding Cavaliers, explaining how a superior people could have lost the war—for surely the Yankees never beat the South in a fair fight!"

Actually, Longstreet was a tower of strength. "Although he made his share of mistakes, his skill at directing troops in battle was almost without peer, and his strategic insights were remarkably sophisticated. Four commanders—Beauregard, Joseph E. Johnston, Lee, and Hood—sought Longstreet as their second-in-command, and Longstreet ended the war with a highly laudable reputation.

"But by joining the 'enemy' during Reconstruction, Longstreet lost his status as a Confederate hero at a time when the Southern people, responding to the shock of defeat, were transforming their heroes from ordinary human beings into saints. Robert E. Lee became the dominant Confederate hero only after his death in 1870, when a group of former Virginia officers launched an intensive campaign to make Longstreet publicly bear the blame for Lee's defeat at Gettysburg and for the loss of the war."

"Longstreet," Piston emphasized, "served with the Army of Northern Virginia longer than any other high-ranking officer, including Lee. He was present at First Manassas and at all the major battles from 1861 through 1863, except for Chancellorsville, when he was on detached service. Sent West to aid the Army of Tennessee, he performed brilliantly at Chickamauga, but his brief independent command in East Tennessee during the winter of 1863-1864 raised questions concerning his leadership. He returned to Virginia the following spring, but was gravely wounded in the Wilderness. By the time he resumed active service in October 1864, Lee was pinned down to the trenches at Petersburg."

Following the war, the so-called "Lee Cult," led by former Confederate General Jubal A. Early, engaged in a prolonged, skillful, and organized campaign of character assassination to discredit Longstreet. Their mission, which was helped in the South by Longstreet's adoption of so-called "Black Republicanism," was very successful. Longstreet, who had become a cotton broker in Louisiana following the war, advocated cooperation with the federal occupation troops in speeches and newspaper articles.

When he led the all-black Louisiana State Militia into battle against white supremacists in New Orleans,

Longstreet became a traitor to the white race in the eyes of most Southerners. Extremely shocked and angered by his actions, Southerners were thereafter willing to believe almost anything bad about him, particularly his past military record: historical truth was irrelevant.

After obtaining a federal pardon, he endorsed his prewar friend Ulysses S. Grant during the presidential election of 1868, and held several political offices in the Grant administration and in the carpetbag Louisiana state government. "If Longstreet's contemporaries had been able to judge him in a vacuum," Piston noted, "his pragmatic approach to Reconstruction might have been appreciated, if not endorsed. But Longstreet's actions occurred at a time of immense emotional turmoil throughout the South."

Longstreet could also be what Piston termed "his own worst enemy." "When writing to defend his military record, he displayed (particularly in old age) a vanity and jealousy of the reputations of Lee and 'Stonewall' Jackson which had not characterized him during the war. These writings alienated his contemporaries and misled subsequent twentieth-century historians."

In closing, Piston observed that James Longstreet's negative image is beginning to change. Last year at their annual convention, the Sons of Confederate Veterans adopted a resolution absolving Longstreet from sole or exclusive blame for the South's defeat at Gettysburg. Funds are now being raised to place an equestrian statue of him along Confederate Avenue at Gettysburg.

"But," Piston added, "while Longstreet may not forever occupy a villain's place in Southern history, nothing can restore the honor and accolades which should have been his but were not. A bronze statue, which must inevitably tarnish, cannot compare to the more than one hundred thirty years of adoration accorded Lee and Jackson."

SUMMER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President-elect Kurt Carlson has announced that the summer meeting of the Executive Committee will be held on Saturday, June 19, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. All 1993-94 officers, committee chairs, and past presidents are urged to attend.

1994 Battlefield Tour

The Round Table Executive Committee, at its meeting on May 14, selected the Shenandoah Valley as the site for the 1994 battlefield tour. Carole Cierniak will serve as tour chair; Marvin Sanderman will be co-chair. Mark your calendars for May 5-8, 1994!

Editor's Note

On behalf of Don Anderson and myself, I want to thank all those people who helped us so much, in so many different ways, with the May battlefield tour to Vicksburg, thus contributing to its being such an outstanding success. Some of you we thanked by means of listing you in the masthead of the tour newsletter; others we thanked from the podium during the evening tour programs; others we may have neglected to properly acknowledge. You know who you are; please accept our heartfelt appreciation!

Barbara Hughett
Newsletter Editor and
1993 Tour Co-Chair

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Coughlin, Thomas J. *The Confederate Raiders*. American Merchant Marine Museum Foundation. 1991. \$65.00.
- Cunningham, H.H. *Doctors in Gray: The Confederate Medical Service*. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1958.
- Davis, William C. *Breckinridge: Statesman, Soldier, Symbol*. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1974.
- Denney, Robert E. *Civil War Years: A Daily Account of the Life of a Nation*. Sterling Publ. 1992. \$24.95.
- Donald, David H., ed. *Gone for a Soldier: The Civil War Memoirs of Private Alfred Bellard*. Little, Brown & Co. 1991. \$19.95. Original of 1975.
- Duncan, Russell, ed. *Blue-eyed Child of Fortune: The Civil War Letters of Colonel Robert Gould Shaw*. U. of Georgia Press. 1992. \$29.95.

"Tenting Tonight?"

Is anyone interested in singing, playing, and researching the music of the Civil War era? Member Eileen Crowley is seeking to form a group if sufficient interest is indicated. You can reach Eileen at (312) 413-1490 from 8:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m., or at (312) 545-6253 from 5:00 till 8:00 p.m.

Frank Byrne, our March speaker, is the editor of the *Voices of the Civil War Series*, to be published by The University of Tennessee Press. The series is designed to present various aspects of the Civil War era, from the points-of-view of people who lived in that era. The series will contextualize the personal accounts of people who lived through the experience of the American Civil War within the larger framework of established scholarship on the period and expand previous notions by offering new perspectives.

If, in the course of your study and research, you have come across a document which you would like to edit and submit for consideration for the series, Dr. Byrne invites you to contact Meredith Morgan, Acquisitions Editor, The University of Tennessee Press, 293 Communications Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0325, (615) 975-3321.

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.

Schimmelfennig Boutique

In addition to The Round Table history, the following items are available at each monthly meeting:

- Lapel pins \$3.00 each, two for \$5.00
- Mugs \$2.00 each, two for \$3.00
- Meeting tapes \$7.00 each
- Civil War Buff posters \$10.00 each

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 Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

June 11: Frances H. Kennedy on "The Dollar\$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation"

June 19: Executive Committee Meeting

August 1: Annual Picnic—Grant Woods, near Round Lake

September 10: William A. Young, Jr., on "Pickett's Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend First Lieutenant George W. Finley"

October 8: Stephen B. Oates, Nevins-Freeman Address

November 12: K. Jerry Williams on "The Confederate Navy in England"

December 10: Paul I. Klinger on "The New Mexico Campaign"

January 14: Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Jr., on "Civil War Art"

February 11: Robert Remini on "Henry Clay, Slavery, and the Coming of the Civil War"

March 11: General Gordon R. Sullivan on "The Wilderness"

April 8: Stacey Allen on "New Discoveries at Shiloh"

May 5-8: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shenandoah Valley

May 13: Robert K. Krick on "Lawyers, Politicians, and Clerks: The Regimental Command of Lee's Army"

June 10: Major Frank K. McKenzie, USMC, on "Combined Operations Against Charleston"

Changes of Address

Stephen Horton, 8105 Kolmar, Skokie, IL 60076, (708) 329-7727

Jerry Warshaw, 800 Hinman Avenue, #708, Evanston, IL 60202

Joyce Warshaw, 1570 Oak Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

Dr. Walter Watts, 10 N. Tower Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521

The **Lincoln Group of Illinois** will hold its annual meeting and luncheon on Saturday, June 12, at Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m., and there will be a \$6.50 charge for a box lunch. The speakers are Thomas F. Schwartz, curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library, and Lincoln collector Jack Smith. To make reservations, call Philip Bean at (708) 960-1500.

The annual Round Table picnic will take place on **Sunday, August 1**, in Grant Woods, near Round Lake, Illinois. Committee Chair Paul Klekner will prepare flyers and maps, which will be mailed to all members in July.

Honorary Life member Ernest A. Griffin was named an honorary member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This honor was conferred upon him by SCV Camp Commander Lamar Roberts during the recent Round Table battlefield tour to Vicksburg, Mississippi.