

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LIV, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 1993

Nevins-Freeman Address Stephen B. Oates on "A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War"

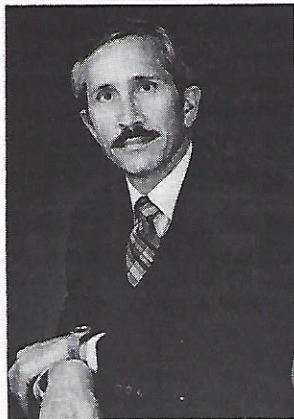
by Barbara Hughett

The Nevins-Freeman Award, named in honor of distinguished historians Allan Nevins and Douglas Southall Freeman, was established by The Civil War Round Table in 1974. On October 15, biographer and historian Stephen B. Oates will become the recipient of the twentieth annual Nevins-Freeman Award. The topic of his acceptance address will be "A Woman of Valor: Clara Barton and the Civil War," which is also the title of his latest book, due to be published in the spring of 1994.

Clara Barton, the North's outstanding battlefield nurse of the Eastern Theater of the Civil War, won the admiration and devotion of thousands of soldiers, officers, and surgeons in the Army of the Potomac. Known among the troops as "the angel of the battlefields," she served at or near battlefields in some of the most significant campaigns in the East—Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and the Richmond-Petersburg siege—and was often under fire. It's a wonder she wasn't killed, especially at Fredericksburg. She paved the way for other women to serve in the Union hospitals; when the war began, military nursing was an exclusively male domain.

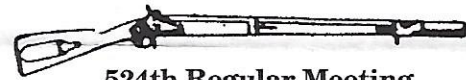
Barton's career was spectacular by any measure. Had she been a soldier, her résumé of wartime accomplishments might have won her a congressional medal of honor. In 1865 she went to Andersonville, site of the infamous Confederate prison in Georgia, to identify and mark the graves of the Union dead. Thanks to her initiative, the names of nearly 13,000 Union prisoners who died at Andersonville are saved from oblivion.

Oates writes in a summary of his book, "By dint of her driving will and her ability to exploit the male military and political bureaucracies," Clara Barton overcame "the fearful odds" against a woman serving in the field in wartime. In his address, as in his book, he will also touch on Barton's personal life—which included a wartime romance with a Union officer—and her postwar career—which included the founding of the American



Stephen B. Oates

STEPHEN LONG / UMASS PHOTO SERVICE



524th Regular Meeting

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Nevins-Freeman Address

Stephen B. Oates on "A Woman of Valor:
Clara Barton and the Civil War"

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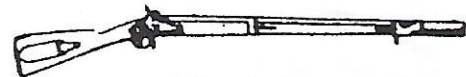
Friday, October 15

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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.
\$20.00 per person

Entree: Stuffed Chicken with Chardonnay Sauce,
Orange Roughy, or Fruit Plate



A Reminder

Please make your reservation by Wednesday, October 13. 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.

Association of the Red Cross.

Stephen B. Oates is Paul Murray Kendall Professor of Biography at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Texas at Austin. His many awards and honors include a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship and a Distinguished Teaching Award from the University of Massachusetts. Oates is an elected member of the Society of American Historians, which restricts its membership to

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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

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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.

Former President Brooks Davis and member John Coulson will lead a class titled "People of the Civil War" for the Institute of Learning in Retirement. Classes meet at the downtown Chicago campus of Northwestern University. For information, call Brooks at 312-944-5082.

Honorary Life member John Divine was a featured speaker at the June 12 rededication ceremony at the Ball's Bluff battlefield in Leesburg, Virginia. The event commemorated a variety of improvements that have been made at the site. Divine is also the subject of a profile in the October issue of *Blue & Gray* magazine.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation has received over \$200,000 in federal transportation enhancement funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). The money will be used to acquire property at the Rich Mountain Battlefield in West Virginia, including the Confederate Camp Garnett and a section of the historic Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. The Foundation already owns one tract containing Camp Garnett entrenchments. The primary battlefield site has been purchased by the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites and is being managed by the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation.

Rich Mountain saw one of the earliest engagements of the war, in July 1861, when Union troops under General George B. McClellan routed a Confederate force holding the turnpike where it crossed the mountain. The victory gave the Union control of much of northwestern Virginia and established McClellan's reputation.

The ISTEA funds that the Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation received are part of a federal program administered by each state government and designed to encourage nontraditional transportation projects, including preservation of historic transportation-related sites. Other Civil War battlefield sites to receive ISTEA funding include Perryville and Mill Springs in Kentucky.

The American Farmland Trust recently acquired a preservation easement on 100 acres adjacent to East Cavalry Field at Gettysburg. The property, the 145-year-old Hoffman farm, is part of the park viewshed. The cost of the purchase was \$197,894. The easement will eventually be held in perpetuity by Adams County.

East Cavalry Field is where the troopers of J.E.B. Stuart and George Custer clashed on the third day of fighting at Gettysburg. Victoria Greenlee, executive director of the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg, which helped bring about the acquisition, said East Cavalry Field is "one of the last historic vistas [at the park] that does not have modern development."

A spokesman for American Farmland Trust said the easement allows for construction of one more family residence and farm buildings, but future owners of the property will be required to retain "the historic character, the viewshed, and the open space of the farm in perpetuity." The Trust normally focuses on preserving productive farmland, but it also purchases easements with historic stipulations.

Oklahoma is the latest of four states to establish a commission to examine the preservation of Civil War battlefield sites. The others are Georgia, Maryland, and Mississippi. The Oklahoma commission is charged with investigating threatened battlefield sites in the state for both the Civil War and the Indian Wars and evaluating ways of protecting and promoting them.

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County National Military Park has acquired key acreage associated with Stonewall Jackson's legendary flank attack at Chancellorsville. The acquisition was made possible by private donations and the assistance of The Conservation Fund.

☛ **SEPTEMBER MEETING** ☛

by Barbara Hughett

"I was in the charge on Cemetery Ridge, July 3, 1863, and was taken prisoner at the stone fence on the ridge... behind which the first Federal line waited our attack." So wrote George W. Finley about his participation in the Battle of Gettysburg. "Pickett's Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend George W. Finley" was the title of William A. Young's presentation on September 10. He appeared before 112 members and guests at the 523rd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table.

Using Finley's own words from his account of his Gettysburg experience, William Young told the story of Pickett's Charge. Young, a Richmond attorney and Civil War scholar, was dressed to resemble the Reverend Finley as he might have appeared in 1893, when he was fifty-three years old, looking back thirty years to the Battle of Gettysburg. Young said that one of the finest accounts of Pickett's Charge was the one written by First Lieutenant Finley, of Company K, 56th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Garnett's Brigade, Pickett's Division, Longstreet's Corps, Army of Northern Virginia. Lieutenant Finley was captured on the Gettysburg battlefield, at Cemetery Ridge, and spent two years in Federal prisons. After the war, he became a Presbyterian minister.

The position of the 56th Virginia, by one o'clock on the afternoon of July 3, 1863, was behind the artillery of Major James Dearing. For nearly two hours, the men lay still as a barrage of shells passed over their heads. "For more than an hour," Finley recalled, "the most terrific cannonade any of us had ever experienced was kept up, and it seemed as if neither man nor horse could possibly live under it. Our gunners stood to their pieces and handled them with such splendid courage as to wake the admiration of the infantry crouching on the ground behind them. We could see nothing whatsoever of the opposing lines, but knew from the fire that they must have a strong position and many guns."


The artillery duel was over by 3 p.m. "When the fire had slackened and had almost ceased," Finley wrote, "I saw General Longstreet, attended by a single officer, whom I took to be his adjutant-general, Colonel Sorrell, riding slowly from our right in front of our line and in full view of the enemy's skirmishers. He did not seem to notice the Federal lines at all, but was coolly and carefully inspecting ours." The 56th Virginia then stood up and uncased their regimental flag. On their right was J.L. Kemper's brigade; to their left, the rest of Richard Brooke Garnett's brigade, and behind them was the brigade of Lewis Armistead.

As the men went down the reverse slope of Seminary Ridge, they saw for the first time the ground they were to go over. The open field was almost a mile long, and there was no cover. There were ten companies in the 56th Virginia, and Colonel William Dabney Stuart appointed ten file-closers. It was their job to shoot anyone who skulked to the rear. Stuart then named ten alternate file-closers—who were to shoot any file-closer who faltered. Such faltering was probably unlikely as the men were strongly motivated. With General Pickett's last words—"Remember today that you are from old Virginia"—resounding in their ears, the soldiers of the 56th moved forward through the field. Their objective was a clump of trees in the distance at an angle in a stone wall on Cemetery Ridge.

As the men moved forward, Colonel Stuart fell, and

Captain H.C. Wyant took command. He too fell, shot in the face. Even though it faced overwhelming fire with no cover, the Virginians stopped to dress their line. Moving forward again, it was not until the regiment was within fifty yards of the stone wall that the 56th broke into a run. Lieutenant Finley, with every other senior officer down, found himself in command.

At the wall, the remnant of the 56th Virginia stopped and took advantage of its first opportunity for cover. Finley saw General Garnett, riding his favorite horse, "Redeye," fall when he was hit between the eyes. He also saw the colorbearer of the 56th, Sandy Williams, wave the regimental flag defiantly in the face of the 72nd Pennsylvania, until he was captured. Of the 12,000 soldiers of the 56th who had begun this fight, only three to four hundred were left.

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OATES (continued from page 1)


historians who display genuine literary qualities.

His book *To Purge This Land With Blood: A Biography of John Brown* was named one of "The 100 Most Outstanding Books of 1970" by *The New York Times*. *With Malice Toward None: The Life of Abraham Lincoln* (1977) won the Christopher Award for outstanding literature and the Barondess/Lincoln Award of the New York Civil War Round Table; and *Let the Trumpet Sound: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (1982) received the Christopher Award and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Book Award. Stephen Oates last appeared before The Round Table in November of 1982, when his topic was "John Brown: Catalyst for the Civil War."

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Previous Nevins-Freeman Honorees

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

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"The Civil War Navies" is the theme of the Ninth Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Conference, to be held on November 5-7 at the Hanalei Hotel in San Diego, California. Cosponsored by Civil War Round Table Associates and the San Diego Civil War Round Table, the conference will feature addresses by William Hanchett ("Lincoln on Water") and William M. Fowler ("Under Two Flags: The American Navy in the Civil War"). For information, call Rich Marcell, San Diego Round Table president, at 619-453-5400 (days) or 619-457-5833 (evenings).

Dennis Frye, historian at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park, will receive the 1993 Captain Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Award of The Civil War Round Tables of Central Massachusetts and Greater Boston. The award recognizes accomplishments in furthering the understanding of Civil War history and preservation. Frye will receive this honor on October 16 in Northboro, Massachusetts.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Farwell, Byron. *Stonewall: A Biography of General Thomas J. Jackson*. W.W. Norton & Co. 1992. \$29.95.
- Faust, Drew G. *Southern Stories: Slaveholders in Peace and War*. U. of Missouri Press. 1992. \$24.95.
- Freehling, William W. & Craig M. Simpson, eds. *Secession Debated: Georgia's Showdown in 1860*. Oxford University Press. 1992. \$29.95.
- Gordon, John B. *Reminiscences of the Civil War*. New introduction by Ralph L. Eckert. LSU Press. 1992. Pbk. \$16.95. Original of 1903.
- Gwin, Minrose C., ed. *A Woman's Civil War: A Diary, With Reminiscences of the War, From March 1862 by Cornelia Parke McDonald*. U. of Wisconsin Press. 1992. \$49.50; pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1935.
- Hale, Douglas. *The Third Texas Cavalry in the Civil War*. U. of Oklahoma Press. 1992. \$28.95.

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Wiley Sword, author of *Embrace an Angry Wind* (1992) and our speaker in September 1992, was recently awarded the Fletcher Pratt Award by The Civil War Round Table of New York.

A photograph of Colonel Arno Voss, who served in the 12th Illinois Cavalry, is needed by Allan Tischler, who is writing a book on the Harpers Ferry Cavalry Expedition of September 14-15, 1862. If you know where such a photograph can be found, contact Tischler at 841 Wardensville Grade, Winchester, Virginia 22602, 703-877-2796. He is also seeking photographs of the enlisted men who served in the unit.

"Abraham Lincoln and the American Mind" is the theme of the Eighth Annual Lincoln Colloquium, to be held at Sangamon State University in Springfield on October 23. Speakers include Mark E. Neely, Jr., Harold Holzer, William Hanchett, Douglas Wilson, and Frank J. Williams. Registration begins at 10 a.m. The program begins at 11 a.m. and ends around 5 p.m. The \$25 per-person fee includes a luncheon. For information, call Tim Townsend at 217-492-4150.

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.

- October 15:* Stephen B. Oates, Nevins-Freeman Address (Please note, this is the **third** Friday of the month.)
- 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:* Major Frank K. McKenzie, USMC, on "Combined Operations Against Charleston"
- 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:* Stacey Allen on "New Discoveries at Shiloh"

New Members

- Marge Fahrenbach, 1433 W. George Street, Chicago, IL 60657
- Fred Fraterrigo, 6887 N. Mendota, Chicago, IL 60646
- Robert Haley, 651 S. Wells Street, Chicago, IL 60607
- Marla Horwitz, 4112 Harvard, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- Jerome Johnson, 8815 KcKinley Drive, Barrington, IL 60010
- John S. Kociolko, 4929 W. 31st Place, Cicero, IL 60650
- Alfred Levinson, 813 Chaucer Way, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
- David P. McCarragher, 150 Newton Avenue, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
- John Norton, 247 Willow Avenue, Deerfield, IL 60015
- Roger Rudich, 205 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 625, Chicago, IL 60606

Changes of Address

- Steve Antosiak, 10 Dryden Court, Algonquin, IL 60102
- Richard Cohen, 2937 Charles Bryan Road, Bartlett, TN 38134-3833
- Michael Dicillo, 7846 W. Lawrence, Norridge, IL 60650
- David Kupferman, 3202 N. 7th, Tacoma, WA 98406
- George Linhart, 3924 Stanford Way, Livermore, CA 94550
- Tom Martin, 5201 Chowan Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22312
- John Novick, 3026 Grand Boulevard, Highland, IN 46322
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- Robert Schell, 2050 Arbor Lane, #301, Northfield, IL 60093
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