

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
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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, 410 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 841, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1402.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The Secretary of the Interior has begun approving expenditure of revenues from the sale of Civil War Commemorative Coins. According to the act that created the program, the Civil War Trust must use the revenues from the sale of the coins for battlefield preservation, and the Secretary of the Interior must approve expenditures. Funding priority is to be given to the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's fifty Priority One battlefields. For each battlefield, priority will be given to the most historically significant battlefield land.

During the summer the Civil War Trust submitted three applications to the Secretary for approval. The first was for the purchase of fifty-six acres of land below Schoolhouse Ridge abutting Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. The second was for repayment of a loan for partial purchase of forty acres that are part of the Grove Farm and at the edge of the Antietam battlefield. The third application was for the down payment to purchase 222 acres at the core of the Opequon (Third Winchester) battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley. The revenue expenditure approved by the Secretary was \$1,033,172. Surplus revenues from the sale of the coins so far totals about \$5 million.

The Perryville Battlefield Commission has purchased the 150-acre "Widow Gibson Farm" for \$168,000. The 1862 farm was the center of fierce fighting in the Perryville battle that historians credit with keeping Kentucky in the Union. The purchase was made possible by federal funds from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, The Conservation Fund, and the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels of Louisville.

In other news from Perryville, Alan and Arleen Hoeweler of Cincinnati have purchased Merchants Row and have formed the Chaplin Hills Historic Properties Corporation to guarantee that the use and care of the buildings will be in keeping with the goals of the Perryville Enhancement Project. The row of houses and stores look much like they did during the Civil War. Most of the storefronts were built in the 1840s.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS) has acquired 18.5 acres of the Griswoldville battlefield. The land, located about ten miles east of Macon, Georgia, is the site of the only battle fought by General William T. Sherman during his March to the Sea. It occurred November 22, 1864. The purchase was made possible by a donation from APCWS member David H. Cason of Thomaston, Georgia. The APCWS plans to construct an interpretive trail on the battlefield, complete with wayside exhibits and parking.

The Kentucky Civil War Heritage Association was formed in June to help preservation groups organize, plot fund-raising strategies, and plan goals and programs. Members of the Association represent local government, educational institutions, and Civil War sites. They intend to provide advice, from finding funding sources and obtaining nonprofit status to creating driving tours and locating consultants.



☛ OCTOBER MEETING ☛

by Barbara Hughett

Distinguished Lincoln and Civil War scholar Richard Nelson Current became the twenty-second annual recipient of The Civil War Round Table's highest honor, the Nevins-Freeman Award, on October 13. Dr. Current addressed 130 members and guests at the 544th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. The topic of his acceptance address was "Rediscovering the Civil War."

"The Civil War is so big, so multifarious, that we can never know all there is to know about it," Dr. Current observed. "Having discovered it, we can keep on rediscovering it, always finding out something that we did not know before." He noted that he wanted to talk a bit about a few of the things that have struck him as new and interesting. On his "miscellaneous list of topics" were: (1) horses and mules, (2) file closers, (3) Tories or loyalists, and (4) schoolbooks.

After emphasizing the importance of horses and mules to both armies, and pointing out the difficulties caused by a shortage of these animals, he went on to talk about file closers. A dictionary's definition of a file closer is: "A commissioned or noncommissioned officer in the rear of a line, or on the flank of a column, to rectify mistakes and insure steadiness in the ranks." However, Dr. Current recalled that General Robert E. Lee gave these officers an added function—and the term "file closer" an added meaning—when he gave them disciplinary powers to enforce obedience to commands.

Current called Tories, or loyalists, those white Southerners who fought on the Union side, "the unknown soldiers of the Civil War." He said that a Union regiment, or at least a battalion, was formed in every state of the Confederacy except South Carolina. The "official" figure of 86,009 does not include the numerous, but uncounted, Southern men who served in regiments from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and other Northern states.

Concluding his discussion on this topic, he stated: "Assuming that, at the very least, 100,000 white Southerners served in the Union army, how does this compare with the number who served in the Confederate army? There is no official count of Confederate numbers; there are only guesses, and the best guess is 850,000 to 900,000. If as many as 900,000 fought for the Confederacy, the 100,000 who fought for the Union represented a loss of ten percent of the Confederacy's military manpower. In reality, the Confederacy suffered a double loss (even leaving out of consideration the 100,000 blacks), since the 100,000 loyalists must not only be subtracted from the strength of the Confederacy but also added to the strength of the Union. Surely that loss in manpower is an important, though overlooked, reason for the defeat of the Confederacy and the preservation of the Union."

For quite a few years, Current said, "American politics amounted to almost a continuation of the Civil War. Republicans in the North urged ex-soldiers to vote as they shot, reviving wartime hatreds for political effect; while in the South, the Democrats were doing exactly the same thing as they continually rearoused devotion to the Lost Cause and its heroes. This political warfare continued until the end of the nineteenth century, when a kind of political reunion and a reeducation began to take place. School textbooks played a significant role in this process.

Though some regional books continued to display bias, the larger publishers—aiming at business on both sides—began to produce impartial texts.

Dr. Current concluded his address with the following observation: "Regarding each of these four topics—horses and mules, file closers, Tories or loyalists, and schoolbooks—much remains to be revealed. We need a comprehensive study of the part that horses, mules, wagons, and other such vehicles played in the war. We need to know more about not only file closers but the whole subject of soldier discipline and motivation on the battlefield. We need to find out just why—and exactly how many—white Southerners fought for the Union. And we need to review the way the war has been taught in schools and how this affected the attitudes of postwar generations. These are only a few of the many, many things we have yet to discover or rediscover about the Civil War—things that will keep The Civil War Round Table going for a long, long time."

DAVID HERBERT DONALD (from page 1)

Times Best Seller List shortly after its release in mid-October.

David Donald is a native of Goodman, Mississippi, did his undergraduate work at Millsaps College, and earned a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois, where he was the research assistant of the great Lincoln scholar J. G. Randall, who also directed his dissertation. He developed a friendship with Carl Sandburg, who wrote an introduction for Donald's first book, *Lincoln's Herndon* (1948). At Columbia University, he was for four years the office-mate of Allan Nevins, who was then preparing his *Ordeal of the Union*. David Donald has twice won the Pulitzer Prize: in 1961 for *Charles Sumner and the Coming of the Civil War* and in 1988 for *Look Homeward: A Life of Thomas Wolfe*.

Other books he has written include: *Inside Lincoln's Cabinet: The Civil War Diaries of Salmon P. Chase* (1954); *Lincoln Reconsidered* (1951, 1961); *Why the North Won the Civil War* (1960); with J. G. Randall, *The Civil War and Reconstruction*, 2nd edition (1961); *The Politics of Reconstruction, 1863-67* (1965); and *Charles Sumner and the Rights of Man* (1970). Presently Charles Warren Professor of American History at Harvard University, he has also taught at Johns Hopkins University, Princeton University, Oxford University, and Columbia University. He has been the recipient of numerous awards and honors, in addition to the two Pulitzer Prizes. Included among these is the 1988 Distinguished Alumnus Award of the University of Illinois.

For the past seven years, he has devoted his full time to the completion of *Lincoln*. Published by Simon & Schuster, it is a main selection of the Book of the Month Club and of the History Book Club. This will be the first time Dr. Donald has addressed The Civil War Round Table.

Round Table Secretary and Inspector General Bruce Allardice addressed the lunchtime Union League Club Civil War Round Table on October 30. He spoke about his new book, published by LSU Press, *Other Generals in Gray*.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Priest, John M. *Antietam: The Soldiers' Battlefield. A Self-guided Mini-tour*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1994. Pbk. \$6.95.
- Priest, John M., ed. *Stephen Elliott Welch of the Hampton Legion*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1994. Pbk. \$12.00.
- Priest, John M., ed. *John T. McMahon's Diary of the 136th New York 1861-1864*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1993. \$24.95.
- Priest, John M. *Nowhere to Run: The Wilderness, May 4th & 5th, 1864*. Vol. 1. White Mane Publ. Co. 1994. \$29.95.
- Rable, George C. *The Confederate Republic: A Revolution Against Politics*. U. of North Carolina Press. 1994. \$34.95.
- Racine, Philip N., ed. *"Unspoiled Heart": The Journal of Charles Mattucks of the 17th Maine*. U. of Tennessee Press. 1994. \$36.00.
- Rankin, Thomas M. *Stonewall Jackson's Romney Campaign—January 1-February 20, 1862*. H.E. Howard, Inc. 1994. \$19.95.
- Redkey, Edwin S. *A Grand Army of Black Men: Letters From African-American Soldiers in the Union Army, 1861-1865*. Cambridge U. Press. 1992. \$49.95.

Jack Barriger will be the featured speaker on Monday, November 27, at the Union League Club Civil War Round Table meeting. His topic will be "Railroads During the Civil War." As is the custom, the reception begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is served at noon. The per-person cost is \$15. To make reservations, please call 312-435-5000.

Former President Paul I. Kliger addressed the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table on October 12. His topic was "The Confederate Invasion of New Mexico."

Former President Brooks Davis will address the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table on November 9 on "Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln as Commanders in Chief."

Round Table Trustee Karen Krieger will speak to the luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on December 18. She will talk about "Chicago Architecture and the Civil War."

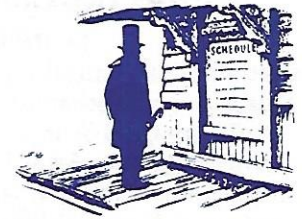
Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.

- November 10*: David Herbert Donald on: "The Most Shut-Mouth Man': The Reticence of Abraham Lincoln"
- December 8*: William C. (Jack) Davis on "Davis, Johnston, and Beauregard: A Triple Play that Crippled the Confederacy"
- January 12*: Brigadier General Harold W. Nelson on "Teaching Generalship on Civil War Battlefields"
- February 16*: James Ogden on "The Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga" (Please note: this is the **third** Friday of the month.)
- March 8*: Brian S. Wills on "The Life of Nathan Bedford Forrest: A Battle from the Start"
- April 12*: John C. (Jack) Waugh on "The Class of 1846"
- May 1-5*: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chickamauga and Chattanooga
- May 10*: Charles P. Roland on "Reflections on Lee: A Historian's Assessment"
- June 14*: Michael W. Kauffman on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues"

NEW MEMBERS

- Bruce Myers, 2400 Algonquin Court, Bolingbrook, IL 60440, 708-759-6280
- David Nash, 1294 Burr Oak, Lake Forest, IL 60045, 708-234-2079
- Charles J. Rener, 10918 Ewing Avenue, Chicago, IL 60617
- Cecile Trace, 747 Michigan Avenue, Evanston, IL 60202, 708-475-3461

Edwin C. Bearss—former chief historian of the National Park Service, winner of the 1980 Nevins-Freeman Award of the The Civil War Round Table, and tour guide par excellence — announced his retirement from the NPS, effective September 29. He will continue as a consultant to the Park Service. Among Ed Bearss's additional awards is the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by the United States Department of the Interior.

American Civil War Round Tables continue to flourish around the globe. For example we learn from *Minie News*, the newsletter of the American Civil War Round Table of Australia, that the group held its 236th regular meeting on September 27. Bernie Manning spoke about "Postal History During the Civil War." The group holds monthly dinner meetings at the Retreat Hotel, Abbotsford, near Melbourne. Barry Crompton, whom a number of our members have met, is the founder and president of the American Civil War Round Tables of Australia, Inc.