

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

September 1996

## Stephen R. Wise on "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign"

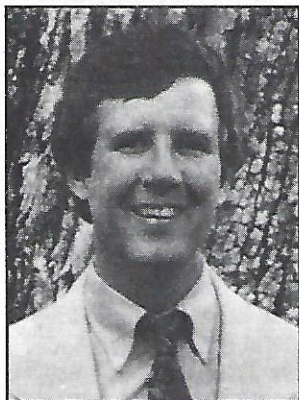
by Barbara Hughett

THE SUMMER OF 1863 witnessed three massive campaigns which sharply affected the Civil War's outcome: Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Charleston. The September program will focus on the 1863 Campaign for Charleston, a campaign which introduced a new era in the science of engineering and gunnery. It involved extensive use of ironclad vessels as a combined Northern army/navy task force tried to sweep the Confederates off Morris Island and capture Battery Wagner, as the Federals attempted to gain control of Charleston Harbor.

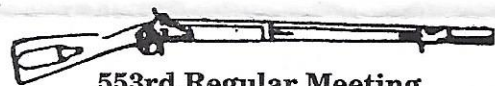
The campaign was a major testing ground for African-American troops, including the well-known 54th Massachusetts. Major roles were played by Generals P.G.T. Beauregard and Quincy A. Gillmore, Rear Admiral John Dahlgren, and nurse Clara Barton. Skillful and bold operations made the 1863 Campaign for Charleston exceptional in the annals of military history. One British observer considered the Battle of Morris Island to be the war's most important campaign. Though popularized by the 1989 movie "Glory," the battle for Charleston was much more than a solitary regiment or a single charge. On Friday, September 20, Stephen R. Wise will address The Round Table on the topic of "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign."

Stephen R. Wise, a historian who lives in Beaufort, South Carolina, is the director of the museum at Parris Island, and the Cultural Resource Manager for the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, located at Parris Island, South Carolina. A native of Toledo, Ohio, he received his bachelor's degree from Wittenberg University and a masters degree from Bowling Green State University. Wise earned his doctoral degree under the direction of the late historian and author Thomas L. Connelly at the University of South Carolina.

Wise's first book, *Lifeline of the Confederacy: Blockade Running During the Civil War* (1991), was highly acclaimed as a comprehensive account of the Confederate effort to deliver supplies through the Northern blockade. His sec-



Stephen R. Wise



### 553rd Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

Stephen R. Wise on "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign"

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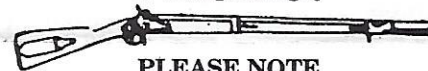
Friday, September 20

☆ ☆ ☆

Holiday Inn Mart Plaza  
350 North Orleans Street  
Buttons — 15th Floor  
(This month only)

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$25 - The Civil War Round Table of Chicago members  
\$30 - Nonmembers

Entree: Round Roast of Beef with Bordelaise Sauce  
or Orange Roughy



### PLEASE NOTE

The meeting this month is on the *third* Friday of the month, and this month only is being held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, due to a scheduling conflict at the Union League Club.

Please make your reservations by Wednesday, **September 18**, by calling Registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438. People who attend without having made a reservation will pay a \$5 walk-in charge. If you make a reservation and then find you cannot attend, please call to cancel or you will be billed for a dinner.

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 \$5.

ond book, *Gate of Hell: The Campaign for Charleston Harbor, 1863* (1994), was given an award by the South Carolina Historical Society as the best book written in

(continued on page 3)



## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940  
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817  
Chicago, Illinois 60605  
Phone: 847-698-1438

### Officers

|                             |   |
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| Newsletter Editor .....     | Barbara Hughett                                 |
| Contributing Editors .....  | C. Robert Douglas, David Richert<br>Larry Gibbs |

*Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968*

### Board of Trustees

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| Terms expiring in 1997: Donni Case, Gene Holland, Janet Linhart, Michael Marienthal |
| Terms expiring in 1998: Ted Birndorf, Roger Bohn, Thomas Herres, Susan Phillips     |

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|--|---------------------------------|
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| Membership .....   | To be announced                 |
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| Nominating .....   | Carole Cierniak                 |
| Field Artist/Archives .....  | Jerry Warshaw                   |
| Nevins-Freeman Award .....   | To be announced                 |
| Honors .....   | Paul I. Kliger                  |
| Tape Record Librarians .....                                       | Robert Girardi<br>Roger Bohn    |
| Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfenning Boutique ..... | Ted Birndorf<br>Robert Dawson   |
| House .....  | To be announced                 |

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, 601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

**Former President Mary Abroe** will address the luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Thursday, September 26. Her topic will be "The Battle of Antietam." A reception begins at 11:30 a.m., a luncheon buffet will be served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

### ☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

The American Battlefield Protection Program has awarded nearly \$700,000 in Partnership Funding grants to thirty-two projects in a dozen states. The awards are almost all to Civil War sites that were deemed "Priority I" battlefields by Congress, which means they are the most significant and most threatened.

Among the awards are: \$10,000 to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program to assist with signage along the Arkansas Civil War Heritage Trail; \$50,000 to the Georgia Civil War Commission for an overall interpretive sign plan for Resaca battlefield; \$16,000 to the Mill Springs Battlefield Association for design and development of two interpretive signs; \$16,000 to the City of Corinth, Mississippi, for a study to assess the condition of its earthworks, recommend treatment and issue a stabilization plan; \$20,000 to the Newtonia, Missouri, Battlefield Protection Association to continue an archaeological survey; \$26,000 to Bentonville, North Carolina, Battleground Historical Association to create a comprehensive plan of resources and a preservation plan; \$15,000 to the City of Fredericksburg, Virginia, to identify, evaluate, and document the Civil War resources in the Rappahannock River Valley; \$20,000 to the Rich Mountain, West Virginia, Battlefield Foundation to stabilize earthworks, create additional interpretive exhibits, and develop an educational program for local schools; and \$10,000 to Shepherd College Foundation in West Virginia for a video on preservation, employing sites such as the battlefields at Antietam, Monocacy, and Harpers Ferry; \$17,000 to the Shenandoah Valley Conservation Council to evaluate significant sites in the Staunton-to-Parkersburg Pike Corridor.

**The Kernstown Battlefield Association** has been formed to raise the \$1.1 million still needed to buy the Kernstown battlefield in the Shenandoah Valley by December 1. To be purchased is the 342-acre Grim farm, situated south of Winchester on the old Valley Pike. It comprises the core of the battlefield.

The total price of the farm was \$2.7 million. The city of Winchester and Frederick County chipped in \$500,000 in 1994 and an Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act grant provided another \$1.1 million. If the additional \$1.1 million is not raised, only the seventy-six acres purchased by the city and county for \$500,000 will be saved. Donations towards the battlefield purchase may be made to Kernstown Battlefield Association, 104 North Braddock Street, Winchester, Virginia 22601.

**The Weyerhaeuser Corporation** has donated twenty-four acres of the New Bern battlefield to the Civil War Trust. The land is a key area of the battle of New Bern and contains several earthworks. Much of the battlefield has been already developed and the remaining portion is flanked by a railroad and highway on one side, and several houses, a fair ground, and Weyerhaeuser's future housing development and golf course on the other side. The Trust acted as intermediary between the giant wood-product company and the New Bern Historical Society, which will eventually receive the land.



## ☛ JUNE MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

On June 14, at the 552nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 131 members and guests heard Michael K. Kauffman speak on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues." Kauffman is a tour guide for the John Wilkes Booth Escape Tours, has appeared on "Civil War Journal," and has been a consultant on Lincoln's assassination for the National Archives and the National Park Service.

As he interpreted the assassination of Lincoln, Kaufman stated that his findings are "different from the story in print, but not in a sweeping manner." His research has resulted in a fuller explanation of the assassin of Lincoln — the enigmatic John Wilkes Booth. One of the greatest actors of his day, Booth, whose Civil War sympathies were not well known, was well-respected before the assassination. Kauffman asserted that "we have little idea about why he killed Lincoln." A major obstacle was that Booth's family and friends immediately began to backpedal on their relationship with Booth after the assassination. This disavowal of Booth by those close to him has obscured knowledge of Booth and his motives. To assign possible motivation for Booth's actions, Kauffman claimed that "the Booth family believed that it was right to kill a king or leader who became a tyrant." John Wilkes Booth, his father, and his brother acted out these motives on stage many times in the play "Julius Caesar."

"To understand historical events, the emotional impact of the time period should be considered," explained Kauffman. "For example, the 1864 Andersonville prison photographs caused the prisoner of war exchange to be choked off." The temporary termination of the exchange stirred many in the border states to turn against the Lincoln administration. Kauffman speculated that Booth perhaps felt he would get more support in Maryland after the assassination due to the negative feelings of many Maryland citizens toward Lincoln.

Kauffman also gave his opinions on other matters related to the Lincoln assassination. "I do believe that it was the body of Booth in the Garrett barn, because twenty people gave sworn testimony to that effect under oath immediately after the incident," explained Kauffman. Mary Surratt, the owner of the boarding house where Booth hatched the plot to kill Lincoln, was executed with three others in the Booth conspiracy. "Mary Surratt had only one defense," opined Kauffman. "Her only defense was that she knew or strongly suspected that her son John was a spy and never asked a question because of what she may have found out. However, she never stated that defense." Kauffman believes that she probably did know about the assassination plot.

Dr. Samuel Mudd was the doctor who set the broken left leg of Booth. He was a Confederate sympathizer who met with Booth several times before the assassination. Kauffman indicated that "Mudd probably was not guilty of direct knowledge of the Booth conspiracy, but his lies did him in." These untruths convicted him during the period of mass hysteria following Lincoln's murder. He served a prison sentence in the Dry Tortugas.

In recent historiography on the Lincoln assassination, two books by William Tidwell espouse the theory that the Confederate government was directly involved

in the Booth conspiracy plot to kill Lincoln. "The case is unproven," stated Kauffman. "Tidwell succeeded only in proving that the Confederate government had a great deal of money to spend on clandestine activities late in the Civil War. Tidwell has never connected any of Booth's money to the Confederate government." As an actor, Booth made as much as \$25,000 a year, a huge sum in 1865. In the last nine months of his life, he left a money trail which was consistent with the amount necessary to fund the assassination plot.

Kauffman concluded that "the choice of targets in the assassination plot illustrated political and emotional high-profile choices, rather than primarily military targets." Lincoln was the only target with any military significance and the South desperately needed a huge military victory of some kind.

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### STEPHEN R. WISE (continued from page 1)

1994 on South Carolina history. He is currently working on a book which will feature photographs of Beaufort, South Carolina, during the Civil War.

A popular lecturer, Wise has been the featured speaker on Cunard passenger liners and Windspirit cruises. He has appeared on the A & E Channel as a commentator for the television show "Civil War Journal" and has also appeared in various South Carolina Education Television productions. In 1996 he received the Daughters of the American Revolution History Medal Award for his service in promoting the history of the United States.

Wise is currently an adjunct professor of history at the Beaufort campus of the University of South Carolina and serves on the boards of both the Historic Beaufort Foundation and the South Carolina Battlefield Preservation Trust. He is an active participant in local historical societies and Civil War Round Tables.

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"**Maligned and Misunderstood? Mary Todd Lincoln and the Office of the First Lady**" is the theme of a panel discussion at the Chicago Historical Society on Sunday, October 6, at 2:00 p.m. Panelists include Jean Baker, Alida Black, and Carl Sferazza Anthony. Also, "The Eve of War: Voices from the Secession Crisis" will be presented on Sunday, October 13, at 2:00 p.m. For information, call 312-642-4600.

"**A Storm of Shot & Shell: Weapons of the Civil War**" is the title of a new exhibit at Special Collections Exhibit Hall B, at the Harold Washington Library Center. There will be three Gallery Talks by Civil War historians on three Saturdays—October 5, 19, and 26, at 1:00 p.m. For information, call 312-747-4740.

**Former President Marshall D. Krolick** will deliver the third lecture in the Ralph Geoffrey Newman Lecture Series on Civil War History, at the Harold Washington Library Center, on Tuesday, October 15, at 5:30 p.m., in the lower level Video Theater. His topic will be "The Boy Generals: The Promotions of Custer, Farnsworth, and Merritt."



## The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Taylor, John M. *Confederate Raider—Raphael Semmes of the Alabama*. Brassey's. 1994. \$24.95.
- Taylor, Richard. *Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Civil War*. Da Capo Press. 1995. Pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1879.
- Taylor, Robert A. *Rebel Storehouse—Florida in the Confederate Economy*. U. of Alabama Press. 1995. \$29.95.
- Taylor, Walter H. *General Lee: His Campaigns in Virginia, 1861-1865*. U. of Nebraska Press. 1994. Pbk. \$12.95. Original of 1906.
- Thienel, Phillip M. *Seven Story Mountain: The Union Campaign at Vicksburg*. McFarland & Co., Inc. 1995. \$27.50.
- Thomas, Emory. *Robert E. Lee: A Biography*. Norton. 1995. \$30.00.
- Thomson, Orville. *From Philippi to Appomattox: Narrative of the Service of the Seventh Indiana Infantry in the War for the Union*. Bitternut and Blue. 1993. \$28.50.

**The Fourteenth Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show** will take place on Saturday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. at the DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton. For information, call Robert (Hawkeye) Nowak at 312-539-8432.

**The Eleventh Annual Lincoln Colloquium** will be held on Saturday, October 26, at the University of Illinois at Springfield; this year's theme is "War, Politics, and the Lincoln Administration." Speakers include Mark E. Neely, Jr., Harold Hyman, William C. (Jack) Davis, Thomas Schwartz, and possibly (depending on the congressional schedule) Senator Paul Simon. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; the program begins at 10:30 a.m. Registration fee, which includes lunch, is \$35 per person, or \$40, if you wish to order the printed papers. *The deadline for registration is October 18*. Please send your check with "Colloquium" written on the memo line, to: Lincoln Colloquium, Lincoln Home National Historic Site, 413 South Eighth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701-1905. For information, contact Tim Townsend at 217-492-4241, extension 241, or by email at [liho\\_colloquium@nps.gov](mailto:liho_colloquium@nps.gov).

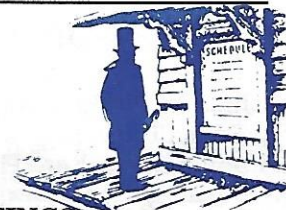
### Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.

**September 20:** Stephen R. Wise on "Gate of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign" (*This meeting only will be held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza. This is the third Friday of the month.*)

**October 18:** James M. McPherson, Nevins-Freeman Address: "Darling, You Should Not Have Done That: Married Soldiers in the Civil War." (*This is the third Friday.*)

**November 8:** Phillip Shaw Paludan on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace"

**December 13:** Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Confederate Staff"

**January 10:** Kurt Carlson on "Patrick Cleburne"

**February 21:** Bruce Allardice on "Confederate Officers Corps" (*This is the third Friday.*)

**March 14:** Dale K. Phillips on "Benjamin Butler and the Occupation of New Orleans"

**April 11:** David Ruth on "The Army of Northern Virginia Matures: The Peninsular Campaign of 1862"

**April 30–May 4:** Annual Battlefield Tour: Richmond

**May 9:** William J. Cooper on "Jefferson Davis"

**June 13:** Mark Grimsley on "Sherman's March to the Sea"

### New Members

Vera Barlow, 324 Harris Ave., Clarendon Hills, IL 60514  
Dennis M. Eagan, 1660 N. La Salle St., Unit 2207. Chicago, IL 60614, 312-642-0907

Bill Hinchliff, 2305 W. Farwell Ave., Chicago, IL 60645, 312-262-6209

Carol McManus, 6050 W. Eastwood, #209, Chicago, IL 60630, 312-481-1055

Robert W. Neidlinger, 840 Singing Hills Court, Annapolis, MD 21401-7319, 410-224-0789

William Ortlund, Jr., 8045 N. Odell Ave., Niles, IL 60714, 847-967-8792

Patricia Philips, 309 W. Lafayette, Valparaiso, IN 46383, 219-462-6685

**Registrar Carole Le Claire reminds us that 1996-97 membership dues were to be sent in by August 31, 1996. If you have not sent yours in yet, please do so. Only current members will receive future Newsletters, beginning in October 1996.**

**Dr. Gordon Damann**, Round Table member and founder of the National Museum of Civil War Medicine at Frederick, Maryland, will deliver a lecture entitled "If Collections Could Talk" on Tuesday, October 22, at 5:30 p.m., in the lower level Video Theater of the Harold Washington Library Center.

**John Andrews**, supervisor of visitor operations at Gettysburg National Military Park, died in August. We offer our deepest condolences to his family. Donations in his memory may be made to Main Street, Gettysburg, 59 E. High Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325.