

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVII, Number 3

Chicago, Illinois

December 1996

Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Corps: 'Bomb-Proof' Officers or Backbone of the Army?"

by Barbara Hughett

THE MOST famous soldiers in the Army of Northern Virginia were men of the line—generals and field officers. Their colleagues on staff duty are less well known. The more prominent officers have told the story of the staffers, but have left the duties and background of the more than 2000 men of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff corps obscured.

Historian Robert E. Lee Krick has made a study of those staff officers and has found them to be a remarkably well-educated, literate, and often wealthy collection of men. He will address The Round Table on December 13 on the topic of "The Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Corps: 'Bomb-Proof' Officers or Backbone of the Army?"

Staff duty attracted a colorful set of men. Among these were H.S. Farley, of J. E. B. Stuart's staff, who became a silent movie actor later in life; John T. Magruder, who served the first eighteen months of the war in the Union cavalry, defected to the Confederacy, and was killed in Pickett's charge; and the caustic John T. Pickett, of General Breckinridge's staff, who once wrote of his position: "The duties of the office can be discharged by any school boy possessed of common sense." The staff system of the Army of Northern Virginia represented what might be the most obvious example of nepotism in military history. At least 75 percent of all generals in that army had a close kinsman on their staff.

In addition to briefly reviewing the difference in the various duties of staff members (aide-de-camp, adjutant general, inspector general ordnance officer, etc.), Krick will analyze their roles in the army. He will talk about what made a good staff officer, how the generals used these men, and their level of effectiveness. One of the oldest criticisms of Robert E. Lee as a general is that he misunderstood the role of staff officers, despite being one himself fifteen years earlier. This criticism will be addressed, and an analysis will be presented to show how the Confederate staff system compares with that of other armies in other wars.

Robert E. L. Krick, son of noted historian (and 1988 Nevins-Freeman Award hon-



Robert E. Lee Krick



556th Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Corps"

☆ ☆ ☆

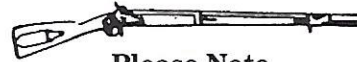
Friday, December 13

☆ ☆ ☆

Union League Club
65 West Jackson Boulevard

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

Entree: Beef Stroganoff or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, December 11, 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. **No last-minute orders for the Catch of the Day can be honored. The chef must have at least twenty-four hours notice.**

The Union League Club is located at the corner of Jackson Boulevard and Federal Street. Federal Street runs north and south between Dearborn and Clark Streets. Parking is available at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club, at the rate of \$5 per car.

oree) Robert K. Krick, has lived in Virginia for the past twenty-five years, and spent his earliest years in memory in a house on the Chancellorsville battlefield. He graduated from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg with a B.A. in history, and immediately joined the National Park Service.

He has served as an historian at several sites, most
(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

President.....	Larry Gibbs
Senior Vice President	Robert Girardi
Vice President	James Nethery
Vice President	Charles Bednar
Treasurer	Frank Patton
Secretary	Bruce Allardice
Assistant Treasurer	Roger Bohn
Assistant Secretary	Norman Poteshman
Inspector General	Bruce Allardice
Membership Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Tour Registrar	Carole Le Claire
Newsletter Editor	Barbara Hughett
Contributing Editors	C. Robert Douglas, David Richert Larry Gibbs

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

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

Committee Chairs

Spring Battlefield Tour	James Nethery
Battlefield Preservation Fund	Mary Munsell Abroe
Ways and Means	Kurt Carlson
Membership	Eleanor Leichenko
Publications/Printed Material	David Richert
Publicity/Public Relations	Donni Case
Hospitality	Susan Phillips Janet Linhart
Nominating	Carole Cierniak
Field Artist/Archives	Jerry Warshaw
Nevins-Freeman Award	Mary Munsell Abroe
Honors	Paul I. Klinger
Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfenning Boutique	Ted Birndorf Scott Graham
Tape Record Librarians	Robert Girardi Roger Bohn
House	Scott Graham Paul Eastes

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.



Season's Greetings
from the Officers of The Civil War Round Table
and the Newsletter Staff

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

Legislation creating the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District was passed by Congress in the closing days of the session. Part of the Omnibus Parks and Public Land Management Act of 1996, it authorizes up to \$3.5 million per year for land acquisition and historic interpretation and networks ten Civil War battlefields in the Valley—Opequon, Second Winchester, Second Kernstown, Cedar Creek, Fisher's Hill, Tom's Brook, New Market, Cross Keys, Port Republic, and McDowell. The secretary of the interior will appoint a nineteen-member commission, which will draft a historic district plan and establish a management entity. Although the original legislation called for a new national battlefield park, it did not have the support of the National Park Service.

The act also authorized allocation of \$51.9 million to move U.S. 27 out of the middle of Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park. The historic road, which currently carries 18,000 vehicles a day through the heart of the park, will be relocated as a four-lane divided highway around the park's western boundary. According to park superintendent Patrick Reed, relocating the highway "will have a significant impact on restoring the historic scene for the visitor, and on our ability to protect the historic resource here." The parks bill also formally establishes the American Battlefield Protection Program. The program, in effect since 1991, existed previously as only a line-item appropriation. It is authorized for ten years with a \$3 million annual appropriation.

In other news from Congress, legislation to restrict growth at Richmond National Battlefield Park (see Battlefield Preservation Update, April, 1995) was dropped. As noted in Battlefield Preservation Update last month, a new management plan proposes a 7,121-acre expansion of the park. Legislation to achieve that will be introduced in the next session.

The National Park Trust, a non-profit land conservancy, has donated \$26,000 to the National Park Service to preserve almost an acre of battlefield land atop South Mountain in Maryland. The land will be preserved in perpetuity as part of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The .92 acre parcel is located across from the old South Mountain Inn, which served as headquarters for Confederate General D.H. Hill during the battle. The land preserved is part of Hill's staging area and the site of a Confederate battery.

Bentonville Battlefield in Johnston County, North Carolina, has been awarded National Historic Landmark designation by the secretary of the interior. The 6,500-acre landmark includes the site of the conflict, Union and Confederate earthworks, portions of the historic road system, and a building, the Harper House, that was used as a hospital for the Union XIV Corps.

Former Round Table President Michael S. Lerner (1966-67) died last month in Evanston. He was 81. We offer our deepest sympathies to his family.

☛ NOVEMBER MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

On November 8 at the 555th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 102 members and guests heard Dr. Phillip Shaw Paludan give a provocative presentation on "Lincoln and the Propaganda of War and Peace." Dr. Paludan, a professor of history at the University of Kansas, has authored five books, including *A People's Contest: The Union and the Civil War 1861-1865* (1988) and *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln* (1995). The thesis of his talk was that Lincoln used some deliberate deception to form Union policy. Lincoln, according to Paludan, influenced public opinion in a unique manner, which helped ensure Union resolve and ultimate triumph.

According to Paludan, "A leader must define policy that has impact on public opinion. The public opinion shaped by propaganda involves the deliberate manipulation of symbols." Some words matter a great deal, especially in wartime. In 1864 Union General William Sherman's statements to Confederate General John Bell Hood were published. They boosted Union morale and frightened Southerners. Sherman's impassioned rhetoric of threats of severe Union punitive actions were not matched by the reality of Union army conduct. During the Civil War atrocity stories in northern newspapers attempted to rally Union supporters around the flag. Pamphlets and editorials tried to change attitudes among citizens.

Lincoln thought that people needed to be led. Thus, he believed in shaping public opinion, not simply following events or other people. Paludan stressed the point that "Lincoln as a leader indicated that from the outset of the war Union and liberty were one and inseparable." With regard to the questions of civil liberties and limits of dissent during the conflict Paludan asserted, "Lincoln had very few dissenters arrested. He used the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus very sparingly."

Supporting his opinions with strong rhetoric, Lincoln influenced pro-Union organizations. The Union League, begun in 1861, fell victim to lethargy and Confederate victories in 1862. But in 1863 it came to life to strongly support the Union cause. More than 140,000 Illinois citizens joined the League by the end of 1863. By 1864, the Union League played an instrumental role in the reelection of Lincoln. Taking the high road, Lincoln supported the efforts of the Union League with his inspirational messages to the people, but allowed the League to operate in a heavily partisan way at state and local levels.

An excellent example of Lincoln as a good propagandist revolved around the pre-Civil War debate over slavery. Paludan explained, "Lincoln stated that the U.S. Constitution placed slavery on the road to ultimate extinction because slavery could not be extended into the territories. Chief Justice Roger Taney and Senator Stephen Douglas submitted that slavery could expand into the territories. If Taney and Douglas were correct, the Constitution and democracy meant that the U.S. was a pro-slavery nation and a racist society." Lincoln used propaganda to persuade citizens that Douglas's view was incorrect. In discussing the policies of Douglas, Lincoln said, "If Mr. Douglas should succeed, what barrier against

slavery would exist?" During his presidency Lincoln molded public opinion to support the eventual emancipation of slaves everywhere. One of Paludan's most salient points was that from the beginning of the Civil War the preservation of the Union was inextricably intertwined with the emancipation of slaves in the mind of Abraham Lincoln.

ROBERT E.L. KRICK (continued from page 1)

notably Custer Battlefield National Monument and Manassas National Battlefield. He is the author of *The Fortieth Virginia Infantry* (1985), and has written several dozen articles and essays on Confederate topics, many of which can be found in magazines such as *Civil War* and *Blue and Gray*. His biographical register and history of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff officers will be completed in 1997.

At present, Robert E.L. Krick is an historian on the staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park, a position he has held since October 1991.

Karen Krieger will address the lunchtime Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Monday, December 16, on the topic of "The Chicago Board of Trade Regiments During the Civil War." The reception begins at 11:30 a.m.; a buffet lunch will be served at noon. The per-person cost is \$15. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America, one of the most comprehensive exhibitions ever mounted on the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln, will continue at the Chicago Historical Society, located at Clark Street and North Avenue on the city's North Side, until February 13, 1997. As its year-long run is ending, the Society will celebrate this extraordinary exhibition with performances, lectures, and family programs exploring Lincoln's America.

"John Brown's Body"—Sunday, January 12, 2:00 p.m. The Radio Ensemble Players, an ensemble of stage, screen, television, and radio professionals dedicated to the rebirth and development of American radio drama, present this memorable Civil War epic which chronicles the impact of John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry on the abolitionist movement and on the course of the American Civil War. Directed by Chuck Smith, the CHS's "Voices From History" artistic director, this performance brings to life Stephen Vincent Benet's masterful retelling of the Civil War through the voices of ordinary soldiers, abolitionists, wives and mothers, and Northerners and Southerners who lived through this crucial period in American history.

"The Last Best Hope" programs are free with regular admission to the Society. For information on fees for those who are not members of CHS and for the regular hours of the Society, call 312-642-5035, extension 318.

Round Table Founding Member Ralph G. Newman celebrated his 85th birthday on November 3. We extend our very warmest congratulations to Ralph!



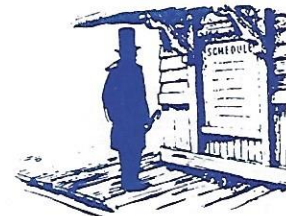
The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Ash, Stephen V. *When the Yankees Came—Conflict and Chaos in the Occupied South, 1861-1865*. U. of N. Carolina Press. 1995. \$29.95.
- Berlin, Jean V., ed. *A Confederate Nurse: The Diary of Ada W. Bacot, 1860-1863*. U. of S. Carolina Press. 1994. \$24.95.
- Brooksher, William R. *Bloody Hill—The Civil War Battle of Wilson's Creek*. Brassey's. 1995. \$24.95.
- Cannon, Robert K. *Volunteers for Union and Liberty: History of the 5th Tennessee Infantry, U.S.A., 1862-1865*. Bohemian Brigade Bookshop & Publishers. 1995. \$39.95.
- Chester, Newell L., ed. *A Drummer-Boy's Diary—Comprising Four Years of Service With the Second Regiment Minnesota Veteran Volunteers 1861-1865 by William Bircher*. North Star Press of St. Cloud, Inc. 1995. \$24.95; pbk. \$14.95. Original of 1888.
- Crist, Lynda L. and Mary S. Dix, eds. *The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Vol. 8: 1862*. LSU Press. 1995. \$65.00.
- Crouch, Howard R. *Civil War Artifacts: A Guide for the Historian*. SCS Publications. 1995. \$37.95.
- Dawsey, Cyrus B. and James M. Dawsey, eds. *The Confederados: Old South Immigrants in Brazil*. U. of Alabama Press. 1995. \$34.95.
- DeCredico, Mary A. *Mary Boykin Chesnut: A Confederate Woman's Life*. Madison House. 1995. \$28.95.
- Dickinson, Jack L. *Tattered Uniforms and Bright Bayonets—West Virginia's Confederate Soldiers*. Marshall University Library Foundation. 1995. \$35.00.
- Everson, Guy and Edmund Simpson, Jr., eds. *Letters of Dick and Tally Simpson, 3rd S.C. Volunteers*. Oxford U. Press. 1994. \$14.95.
- Frederickson, George M. *The Inner Civil War: Northern Intellectuals and the Crisis of the Union*. U. of Illinois Press. 1993. \$12.95. Original of 1965.
- Gentile, Gary. *Ironclad Legacy: Battle of the USS Monitor*. Gary Gentile Publications, PO Box 57317, Philadelphia, PA 19111. 1993. \$25.00.
- Hafendorfer, Kenneth A. *They Died by Twos and Tens—The Confederate Cavalry in the Kentucky Campaign of 1862*. KH Press. 1995. \$22.50.
- Jones, John P., ed. *Dr. Mudd and the Lincoln Assassination—The Case Reopened*. Combined Books. 1995. \$24.95.
- Kirkland, Randolph W., Jr. *Broken Fortunes—South Carolina Soldiers, Sailors and Citizens Who Died in the Service of Their Country and State in the War for Southern Independence, 1861-1865*. South Carolina Historical Society. 1995. \$42.95.
- Krick, Robert K. *Conquering the Valley—Stonewall Jackson at Port Republic*. William Morrow & Co. 1996. \$30.
- Laboda, Lawrence R. *From Selma to Appomattox: The History of the Jeff Davis Artillery*. White Mane Publ. Co. 1994. \$30.00.

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.

December 13: Robert E. Lee Krick on "The Army of Northern Virginia's Staff Corps"

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

Nancy Thomas, 606 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, IL 60043, 847-256-3523

Vern Thomas, 606 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, IL 60043, 847-256-3523

Honorary Life Member John Divine died on November 19 in Leesburg, Virginia, at the age of 85. He was a great and constant friend of our Round Table and of the Round Table Movement and Civil War history in general. His funeral was held on November 22 in the Baptist Church in Waterford, Virginia. Representing The Round Table were Past Presidents Marvin Sanderman, Patricia Sumner, and Merle Sumner. We offer our deepest condolences to his wife Mac and his family.

An item in the Newsletter of the Baltimore Civil War Round Table informs us that another historic site is gone. A barn in Frederick that was caught up in the fury of the war burned to the ground. It was on the old Guilford farm, and was used as an encampment by the Confederate army just prior to the battle of Monocacy. The farm had been on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.