

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XLVIII, Number 1

Chicago, Illinois

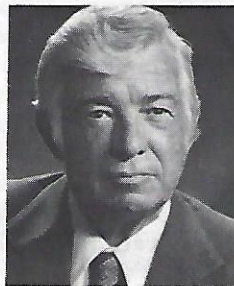
September, 1987

## James T. Hickey To Receive Nevins-Freeman Award

by C. Robert Douglas

In 1974, the Chicago Civil War Round Table established the Nevins-Freeman Award to recognize those individuals who have made substantial contributions to our understanding of the history and heritage of our nation's past, with emphasis on the events of the Civil War period. This year, our Awards Committee has selected James T. "Jim" Hickey, retired curator of the Lincoln collection of the Illinois State Historical Library, as the 14th recipient of our most prestigious honor. The award will be conferred on Jim at our first regular meeting of the 1987-1988 term on September 11, 1987 at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison.

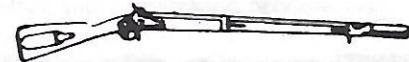
In his acceptance address, Jim will discuss Robert Todd Lincoln's relationships with authors and artists, particularly those who dealt with the career of his father, our 16th president. Robert's unfortunate disagreements with William H. Herndon, Ward Hill Lamon and a few artists have left the impression that he was uncooperative and aloof. Through his research in the 20,000 letters which he discovered at 'Hildene', the home owned by Robert Todd Lincoln located near Manchester, Vermont, Jim has become extremely fond of him and finds in him many of the same qualities that made his father a great American president.



James T. Hickey

Jim's roots in Illinois are strong ones, since he was born in Elkhart, Illinois at Pine Lodge Farm, where he and his wife Betty still reside. His college career at Western Illinois University was cut short when war broke out with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In early 1942 he joined the Army Air Force and served with the 20th Division Photographic Squadron, which later photographed the atomic bomb attacks on the Japanese mainland. Upon his return from service, he continued his studies at Lincoln College and graduated in June, 1947. After a decade of farming, he assisted our Honorary Life member, Raymond N. Dooley, then president of Lincoln College, in the reorganization of the college's Lincoln museum. While serving as the museum's curator, he taught the 'Life of Lincoln' course at the college.

In 1958, the Illinois State Historical Library in Springfield was reorganized, with the Lincoln collection established as a separate department and Jim as its curator. He served until his retirement in November, 1985. In 1959, he was named Historical Consultant for the restoration of the



463rd Regular Meeting

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Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner  
Honoring  
James T. Hickey

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Friday, September 11, 1987

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Quality Inn  
Halsted and Madison  
Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. Dinner at 6:30 p.m.  
\$15.00 per person  
Entree: Veal Scaloppine, Fish, or Fruit Plate



### Please Note

At its meeting August 8, The Round Table Executive Committee voted to increase the monthly meal charge to \$15 per person. This is the first increase in four years, and was made necessary by rising costs.

Old State Capitol building in Springfield. He selected and arranged for the purchase of most of the 3,000 items with which the restored building is now furnished. This work was followed by the restoration of the Lincoln-Herndon law office across the street from the capitol, the Great Western Railway station (the site of Lincoln's farewell address to the citizens of Springfield on February 11, 1861), the Governor's mansion in Springfield, and, finally, the boyhood home of President Ronald Reagan in Dixon, Illinois. Currently, Jim serves his alma mater as chairman of the Heritage committee of the board of trustees and will soon assume the duties of chairman of the college's board of trustees.

Jim has established himself as a great historical detective through his discovery of Lincoln's bank and grocery ledgers dating back to the 1840s and the 1850s, as well as locating at 'Hildene' Robert Todd Lincoln's file dealing

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# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



**Founded December 3, 1940**

18 East Chestnut Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: (312) 944-3085

## Officers

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Fiftieth Anniversary .....	Paul Kliger
House .....	Steve Horton
Picnic .....	Nate Yellen

The only requirement for membership in The Round Table is a genuine interest in the Civil War and its era. For information, address John Peterson, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.



**The 125th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Fredericksburg** will be held on Sunday, December 13. Featured will be bus tours led by park historians A.W. Greene and Bob Krick, walking tours, and a ceremony on Marye's Heights at 3:30 p.m., during which Gary W. Gallagher will speak. Tickets for the bus tour are \$3.50 each and may be ordered from Eastern National Park & Monument Association, 1013 Lafayette Blvd., Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

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with his mother's insanity case. For his contributions to the preservation of our nation's heritage and expanding our knowledge of the past, The Round Table is proud to bestow our highest honor, the Nevins-Freeman award, on James T. Hickey.

## Nevins-Freeman Honorees

Bruce Catton, 1974	James I. Robertson, Jr., 1981
Ralph G. Newman, 1975	Frank E. Vandiver, 1982
T. Harry Williams, 1976	John Hope Franklin, 1983
Lloyd D. Miller, 1977	Richard B. Harwell, 1984
Bell I. Wiley, 1978	John Y. Simon, 1985
E. B. Long, 1979	Harold M. Hyman, 1986
Edwin C. Bearss, 1980	

**Edwin Bearss, chief historian of the National Park Service**, will speak at the 25th Anniversary Banquet of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table on Friday, September 18. The banquet will be held at the William Tell Inn on Route 66 in Countryside. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. and the program will begin at 8. The cost is \$16 per person. For further information and reservations, call Doug Smith, 482-4543 or Don Sikorski 969-5604.

**In commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam** (September 17), there are a number of activities taking place at the Antietam National Battlefield, including Union and Confederate encampments, living history programs and lectures. There will be a formal wreathlaying ceremony on September 17, at which Rev. John Schildt will be the guest speaker.

On September 18 and 19, the Save Historic Antietam Foundation is presenting a tour of Civil War sites and homes in the Antietam Valley, featuring the Pry House, Grove Farm, Piper Farm, Blackford's Ford and others. Some of these sites have never before been open to the public. The cost of the complete tour is \$10 per person. For further information, call (301) 432-6601.

**"DuPager Takes First Shot at Ending the Civil War,"** an article by fellow member Marshall Krolick, appeared in the May, 1987 issue of the *DuPage Magazine*. It tells the story of Marcellus Jones, of Wheaton, a lieutenant with the 8th Illinois Cavalry, who fired the first shot of the Battle of Gettysburg early in the morning on July 1, 1863.

**At its meeting August 8**, the Executive Committee selected Merlin Sumner as an Honorary Award Life Member. Merl, who recently moved to Petersburg, Virginia, is a past president and has served The Round Table in many other ways, including arranging the highly-successful Grant Assembly in March of 1986. Our 1987 Nevins-Freeman Award recipient, James Hickey, was also named a Life Member.

## Midwest Civil War Show

The Fifth Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show will be held Saturday, September 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the DuPage County Fair Grounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton. The show will feature over 125 tables with military items from the periods of 1776 to 1898. For information and table reservations, contact Robert Nowak, 3238 N. Central Park, Chicago, IL 60618 (312) 539-8432.

## June Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

On June 5, 1987, 100 members and guests gathered for the 462nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table to hear Colonel Mark M. Boatner, III. His originally announced topic, "How *The Civil War Dictionary* Came Into Being," was expanded to "Reading, Writing, and Teaching Military History," so that he might include experiences he had in writing other historical reference works, such as *The Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, *Landmarks of the American Revolution*, and *Military Customs and Traditions*. He is currently working on *The Encyclopedia of World War II*.

Colonel Boatner noted that he could have titled his talk, "What Ever Happened to J. D. Cox?" While he was teaching at West Point in 1956, a cadet came up to him one day and asked, "What ever happened to J. D. Cox? There he was at Antietam and it looked as if he were going to win the war single-handedly, and then we never hear of him again." It was Colonel Boatner's inability to readily answer this question, pointing out a void that needed to be filled, that spurred him on to write *The Civil War Dictionary*. He first approached the History Department at West Point with his idea ("It's four years before the start of the Civil War Centennial. How about a one-volume encyclopedia of the Civil War in time to catch the Centennial?"). According to Colonel Boatner, they "threw him out of the office." However, the publishing firm of David McKay was more receptive, and work on the project began. He received support and encouragement from other Civil War historians. Bruce Catton told him that, "If it were possible to graph interest in the Civil War, it started about two years after Appomattox and has climbed steadily ever since, except for one small dip during the Spanish-American War." *The Civil War Dictionary* was first published in 1959, is now in its 16th printing, and is scheduled for a new printing, with additional contributions from experts.

Colonel Boatner talked about some of the problems encountered in writing a historical reference book. One problem is deciding who or what goes into the book and who or what gets left out. In deciding which landmarks to include in *Landmarks of the American Revolution*, for instance, he checked other publications, such as the Michelin Guides, old WPA books, and regional historical publications, and investigated regional historical markers. He stressed the importance of developing a systematic approach as to who ought to be in the book and how many words they should get. An examination of other works on the subject, noting what they include and exclude, has helped to guide him in developing his approach. Next, one has to decide whether to be very selective or to cover the whole field very briefly. He noted that, in all his works, he has opted for the second course of action.

While relying on good secondary sources is mandatory, the problem still arises of who to believe. Preponderance of evidence is the rule he follows. If five people say one thing and one another, obviously it's usually best to believe the version given by the five people. Even though it is possible that the five may be wrong and the one may be right, he believes he has to stick with his decision. He sorts out some obvious mistakes and then has his copy gone over by experts. With *The Civil War Dictionary*, he relied heavily on Pete Long (who spent three hours a night for a year going over the text), as well as 15-20 other people.

Even with all this expert help, mistakes still can go

unnoticed. In the process of his current updating, he has made some new discoveries. For example, the "John Brown" in the original lyrics of "John Brown's Body" was really the second tenor in the Sixth Massachusetts Soldier Choir, not the John Brown of Harpers Ferry fame. The music is an old Virginia camp meeting song, circa 1835. The famous Sixth Massachusetts Soldier Choir, commanded by Daniel Webster's son, made up a comic stanza about its second tenor, Corporal John Brown. Since they were giving concerts, of which this piece was a part, in Washington, New York, and Boston around the time of John Brown's hanging, people assumed this was the "John Brown" to whom the song referred. Another new discovery he made was that Matthew Brady did not take many of the famous battlefield photographs himself. Since he was extremely nearsighted, his assistants took the pictures, although he did the studio work which, in those days, was a very complicated and painstaking process.

According to Colonel Boatner, there are two approaches to writing a book. One is to spend a lifetime becoming an expert on one topic and then getting around to writing a book on it. The other is to see a need for a book on a certain subject and undertake to write that book. This, he told us, is what he did in the case of *The Civil War Dictionary*. He saw the need, set a deadline, and sat down and wrote it.

(Note: Although Colonel Boatner didn't include this in his talk, checking *The Civil War Dictionary*, we find that quite a lot happened to J. D. Cox after Antietam. Commissioned a Major General in October of 1863, he went to West Virginia to command the Department of the Kanawha, and cleared that area of Confederate forces. In April of 1863, he assumed command of the District of Ohio and the Third Division XXII Corps (Ohio), which he led in the Atlanta, Franklin, and Nashville campaigns. He was Governor of Ohio (1866-67) and Grant's Secretary of the Interior (1869-70), became president of the Wabash Railroad in 1873, and was elected to Congress in 1876. He is the author of *Atlanta* and *The March to the Sea, Franklin and Nashville* (1882) and the two-volume *Reminiscences of the Civil War*, which was published in 1900.)

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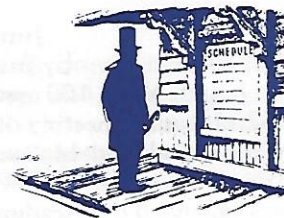
**Dedication of the monument to Major General Stephan Augustus Hurlbut** in Big Thunder Park in Belvedere, Illinois, took place on May 17th. A portion of the funds for erecting the monument was donated in memory of longtime Chicago Round Table member Dr. Gerhardt P. Clausius. Frank Meacham, fellow member of the Chicago Round Table and president of the Northern Illinois Round Table, was the principal speaker at the dedication.

**The 13th Annual Congress of Civil War Round Tables** will be held October 15-18, 1987 in Gettysburg. Among the speakers/battlefield tour guides will be Ed Bearss, Robert Krick, and our own Marshall Krolick. The registration fee is \$150 for members of Civil War Round Table Associates and \$170 for non-members (there is a \$10 discount for payment before October 1). Rooms at the Holiday Inn will cost \$46/\$51. An optional tour on Sunday tracing Lee's retreat back to Virginia, led by Rev. John Schildt, will cost \$40. For further information, contact CWRT Associates, P.O. Box 7388, Little Rock, AK 72207.

## The New Books compiled by Dick Clark



## BULLETIN BOARD



Bailey, Fred Arthur. *Class and Tennessee's Confederate Generation*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1987. 205 p. \$21.00.

Baker, Jean H. *Mary Todd Lincoln: A Biography*. NY: W.W. Norton, 1987. \$19.95.

Blue, Frederick J. *Salmon P. Chase: A Life in Politics*. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1987. 400 p. \$28.00.

Bragg, William Harris. *Joe Brown's Army: The Georgia State Line, 1862-1865*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1987. \$29.95.

Byne, Richard H. *Confederate States of America Philatelic Subject Index and Bibliography: 1862-1984*. Louisville, KY: L.H. Hartmann, 1986. 336 p. \$45.00.

Cox, Jacob. *The Atlanta Campaign*. Introduced by Steve Ward. Dayton, OH: Morningside Bookshop, 1987. \$20.00.

Donovan, Timothy, H., Jr., Roy K. Flint, Arthur V. Grant, Jr., Gerald P. Stadler. *The American Civil War*. Department of History, United States Military Academy. Wayne, NJ: Avery Publishing Group, 1987. 250 p. \$25.00. There is an associated spiral bound atlas of 57 sheets. \$20.00.

Eckert, Edward K. "Fiction Distorting Fact": *The Prison Life*, annotated by Jefferson Davis. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1987. xxii, 168 p. \$39.95.

Graber, Henry W. *A Terry Texas Ranger: The Life Record of H.W. Graber*. With a new introduction by Thomas W. Cutrer. Austin, TX: State House Press, 1987. 454 p. \$19.95.

Haas, Irvin. *America's Historic Battlefields*. NY: Hippocrene Books, 1987. 158 p. pbk \$14.95.

Hird, John D. *A Storm over our Land: The American Civil War*. New York: Vantage Press, 1986. 188 p. \$13.95.

Jones, Archer. *The Art of Warfare in the Western World*. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1987. 708 p. \$29.95.

Jones, Terry L. *Lee's Tigers: The Louisiana Infantry in the Army of Northern Virginia*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987. 274 p. \$22.50.

Linderman, Gerald F. *Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War*. New York: The Free Press, 1987. \$22.50.

Luvaas, Jay and Col. Harold W. Nelson. *The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battle of Antietam: The Maryland Campaign of 1862*. Carlisle, PA: South Mountain Press, 1987. 336 p. 25 maps. \$21.95.

Manigault, Edward. *Siege Train: The Journal of a Confederate Artilleryman in the Defense of Charleston*. Edited by Warren Ripley. Columbia, SC: Published for the Charleston Library Society by the University of South Carolina Press, 1986. 364 p. \$24.95.

Murdock, Eugene Converse. *The Civil War in the North: A Selective Annotated Bibliography*. New York: Garland Publishing Co., 1987. 764 p. indexes. \$58.00.

### Future meetings

Regular meetings are held at the Quality Inn, Halsted and Madison, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.

September 11: Nevins-Freeman Award dinner. Recipient of Award, James Hickey.

October 9: William Safire on "Freedom."

November 13: James Ramage on "Morgan's Huntsville Raid."

December 11: Gordon Dammann on "In Defense of the Civil War Surgeon."

January 8, 1988: James Vlazny on "Robert Barnwell Rhett: Father of Secession."

February 12: Hon. Paul Simon. Subject to be announced.

March 11 and April 8: To be announced.

April 28-May 1: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chancellorsville.

May 13: To be announced.

June 10: Edward Longacre on "The Army of the James."

### New members

Bruce S. Allardice, 9670 N. Dee, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016 (312) 827-0518.

Erik A. Ernst, 2017 Henley St., Glenview, Illinois 60025 (312) 724-4145.

Margaret M. Geringer, 2744 West 89th Pl., Evergreen Park, Illinois 60642 (312) 423-7043.

Paul Greenawalt, 957 Milton Bridge, Frankfort, Illinois 60423 (815) 469-9572.

William W. Howe, 1665 Clavinia Ave., Deerfield, Illinois 60015 (312) 945-2376.

Timothy E. Penrod, 1224 Maple Ave., La Grange Park, Illinois 60525 (312) 352-7384.

William (Bill) Rossen, 4 St. Ives Lane, Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061.

### Changes of address

F.T. Brandt, 821 Cheshire Court, Freeport, Illinois 61032.

Bill Gimbel, 1440 N. Lake Shore Dr., 15-HF, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Harry H. Long, Jr., 1234 Fontaine Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43221 (614) 451-6527.

A. Bingham Seibold, III, 1445 N. State Parkway, #173, Chicago, Illinois 60610.

Dale L. Weitman, 227 N. Green, Carpentersville, Illinois 60110.

Gordon Whitney, 236 Sunrise Dr., Madison, Indiana 47250.

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Neagles, James C. *Confederate Research Sources: A Guide to Archive Collections*. Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Publishing, 1986. 286 p. \$16.95.