



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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Chicago, Illinois

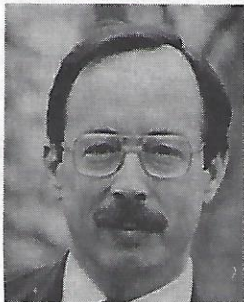
September, 1988

Robert K. Krick to Receive Nevins-Freeman Award

by C. Robert Douglas

1974 was an important year in the history of our Round Table. In that year we established the Nevins-Freeman Award to recognize those individuals who have made important contributions to our knowledge and understanding of our nation's past, with emphasis on the events of the critical years of the Civil War. Our Awards Committee this year has selected Robert K. "Bob" Krick, chief historian of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, as the 15th recipient of our most prestigious honor. The award will be conferred on Bob at our first regular meeting of the 1988-1989 term on September 9, 1988.

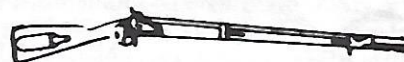
Bob is certainly no stranger to those who have participated in either our annual battlefield tours or our regular meetings. He addressed The Round Table in October, 1979, on "E.P. Alexander, Peerless and Insightful Cannoneer" and again in October, 1983 on "The Battle of Cedar Mountain," the subject of his book to be published this fall. A speaker at our U.S. Grant Symposium in March, 1986, Bob was also our host and principal guide as we participated in the events surrounding the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville on our most recent battlefield tour. An excellent and always informative speaker, Bob is a frequent panelist for the many seminars that have become popular with Civil War enthusiasts during the past few years.



Robert K. Krick

In his acceptance address, Bob will discuss the Army of Northern Virginia in September, 1862, its circumstances during that pivotal month, its opportunities and the reasons why the army should not have been at Sharpsburg the 15th through the 18th. The army's movement into Maryland climaxed a remarkable revolution in the condition of the war in the eastern theater. Robert E. Lee rode the crest of a military tide that held the potential for major accomplishments. Once in Maryland, however, straggling of a scope both unprecedented and never repeated in the army drained Lee of his offensive capacity. A series of unfortunate accidents further diminished Lee's ability to accomplish his goals in the Maryland invasion.

In Bob's view, the circumstances that led to straggling and desertion at a uniquely high level require careful explanation, and he also feels that the subsequent permanent desertions never have been fully understood. When Federal troops, informed of Lee's plans and in superior



473rd Regular Meeting

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Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner
Honoring
Robert K. Krick

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Friday, September 9, 1988

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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: Chicken Marsala, Fish, or Fruit Plate



number, brought Lee to bay behind Antietam Creek on September 15, the Southern army did not possess the tools to achieve anything of importance to its cause. No reasonable scenario could be constructed in which Lee could reap the fruits of a victory. His failure to withdraw his weakened and impotent army without a fight might be adjudged Lee's greatest mistake of the war, in the opinion of our honoree.

A native of New Jersey, Bob moved to California at the age of 11. He earned his B.A. degree in U.S. History from Pacific Union College (1965) and his Master's in military history from San Jose University (1967). From 1967 to 1969, he served as chief historian at Fort McHenry National Monument. He served as superintendent at Fort Necessity National Battlefield from 1969 to 1972, when he assumed his present post as chief historian at the Fredericksburg National Park.

His published work represents important credentials for his nomination as a Nevins-Freeman honoree. His varied writings include: *Maxcy Gregg: Political Extremist and Confederate General* (1973); *Parker's Virginia Battery, C.S.A.* (1975-a second edition will be issued in 1988); *Lee's Colonels: A Biographical Register of the Field Officers of the Army of Northern Virginia* (1979-a third edition will be published this year); *The Gettysburg Death Register* (1981; second edi-

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THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
18 East Chestnut Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611
Phone: (312) 944-3085

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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 Dan Weinberg, 18 E. Chestnut St., Chicago, IL 60611.



Beginning with this issue, Barbara Hughett assumes primary responsibility for editing the newsletter. David Richert will serve as co-editor and Dan Josephs, who prepares the Battlefield Preservation Report, will continue as a contributing editor. Although he will prepare the article about the forthcoming meeting occasionally, Bob Douglas will no longer do so on a regular basis. Our thanks to Bob for doing such a fine job with the page 1 article for so many years.

On the speaking trail this past summer was fellow member Wayne Anderson. He spoke to the Skokie Valley Shrine Club on "The Common Soldier in the Civil War."

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tion 1985); and 3 volumes in the Virginia Regimental Series—9th *Virginia Cavalry* (1982; 4th edition 1988); 30th *Virginia Infantry* (1983; 2nd edition 1985); and *The Fredericksburg Artillery* (1987). He also has edited such classics in Civil War literature as *The War Between the Union and the Confederacy* by William C. Oates (1974); *Four Years Under Marse Robert* by Robert Stiles (1977); *Lee's Sharpshooters* by William S. Dunlop (1982); and *The Army of Northern Virginia in 1862* by William Allan (1984).

For his past and continuing contributions to the preservation of our nation's heritage and expanding our knowledge of the past, The Round Table takes pride in bestowing our highest honor, the Nevins-Freeman Award, on Robert K. Krick.

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	James T. Hickey, 1987

Martin Patrick Dutch, 1917-1988

by Don Anderson

Marty Dutch, a member of The Round Table for over 20 years, died very suddenly on July 23rd. He was also a member of the Salt Creek Round Table and was the second president of the Northern Illinois Round Table. For several years he was Commander of the Illinois chapter of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and was to have become National Commander in October. He was a life member of the Illinois Historical Society and the U.S. Grant Association and was a member of the Sons of Union Veterans. He served as an officer in the U.S. Army during World War II.

Marty received an engineering degree from Northwestern University and recently retired as Vice President, Sales, General Engineering Co. He was an accomplished musician and played piano and saxophone in most of the big bands that came to Chicago in the 1930s. For a while he was a regular member of Kay Kaiser's band and was house pianist at the Blackhawk Restaurant.

Marty and his wife, Helen, were regulars at our meetings and on our battlefield tours. He will be greatly missed by his many friends.

With a vote of 307-98, the House of Representatives handed a victory to historians and preservationists opposing commercial development of the Bull Run battlefield in Manassas, Virginia. If approved by the Senate and signed by President Reagan, this legislation would give the federal government immediate possession of 542 acres of the battlefield.

A Civil War exhibit, entitled "A Nation Divided: The War Between the States, 1861-1865," is on display at The Chicago Public Library Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., through October 15. Exhibition hours are: 9 a.m.-7 p.m., Monday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday; and 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday. For further information, call the Special Collections Division at 269-2926.

June Meeting

by Barbara Hughett

Noted Civil War scholar and author Edward G. Longacre spoke before 97 members and guests on June 10th, at the 472nd regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table. The topic of his address was "Low Comedy and High Tragedy: The Army of the James, 1863-1865." Mr. Longacre is the author of 75 magazine and journal articles and six books, including *The Cavalry at Gettysburg: A Tactical Study of Mounted Operations During The Civil War's Pivotal Campaign—9 June—14 July, 1863* (1986), which won the Fletcher Pratt Award for 1986.

The Army of the James was formed late in 1863 from troops on the Virginia peninsula. By the spring of 1864, it was one of two armies in Virginia, the other being the Army of the Potomac, which served under General Grant's strategic leadership. At its height, the Army of the James had about 40,000 men (1/3 the size of the Army of the Potomac). These armies were supposed to concentrate on common objectives as part of a two-pronged campaign against the Army of Northern Virginia. The Army of the Potomac was pitted against Lee's army above Richmond, hoping to drive Lee back toward the capital city and supply base. In advance of this retreat, the Army of the James operated directly against Richmond. It was supposed to capture the place outright. If it could not, it could halt Lee's retreat and catch him between two Union pincers. Though repeated attempts were made, beginning in May of 1864, the Army did not get into Richmond until 11 months later. The situation of the Army of the James, Mr. Longacre feels, "was largely a case of good men being led by poor, or at least mediocre or unlucky, generals."

The Army's first commanding general was Benjamin Butler, the notorious political general who achieved minor military successes early in the war and served a controversial term as military governor of New Orleans. There he had inflamed world opinion by criticizing foreign officials for sympathizing with the Confederacy, by hanging secessionists who defiled the American flag, and for threatening to treat as a prostitute any local woman who insulted or harassed his troops. In 1862, the Confederate president had declared Butler a war criminal to be shot or hanged if captured. Yet, Butler did possess some positive qualities. He was a gifted administrator who ran a superior military intelligence operation and organized a superior medical corps. The Army of the James' nursing contingent, supervised by Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross, was particularly efficient. He was the Army's black corps' most powerful patron. As a military commander, however, he proved to be a disaster.

Butler's chief subordinates were either question marks or trouble makers. The 18th Corps was led by General William F. "Baldy" Smith, who considered himself a genius and all those beneath him incompetents. Mr. Longacre noted that "He suffered from two diseases: a bad case of a closed mind and an equally severe case of an open mouth." The cavalry leader was a German-American named August V. Kautz, who was an expert on military administration, having written several books on the subject, but who had no experience in leading horsemen. He was addicted to opium and quinine. As he admitted in his wartime diaries, he was so strung out on "strong medicine," that he would go for days at a time in a fog, barely knowing what was happening around him. These generals spent more time fighting each other than the enemy. Each of them had at

least one spy in his headquarters whose job it was to get the goods on his boss's associates.

Despite their lack of combat experience and poor commanders, the regiments of the Army of the James proved themselves to be as rugged, hard fighting, and tenacious as the soldiers of any other army. The Army was composed of a higher than average number of educated men and city dwellers from New York and New England, an unusually large number of whom left well-written letters and diaries. By 1864, 40% of the Army was made up of black soldiers, known as the USCT (United States Colored Troops). Initially, they were considered as experimental troops, whom few white soldiers trusted. It was thought that the black troops could not stand up to adversity, and disparaging remarks were made by some of their own officers. These doubts were dispelled once the black troops went into combat and proved their ability and bravery.

It seemed that every success the Federals gained in the East was attributed to the Army of the Potomac, while the failures were blamed on the Army of the James. Infighting continued between the officers, especially between Butler and Smith, who hated each other. In mid-1864, Smith complained to Grant that he couldn't possibly continue to serve under such a simpleton as Butler. Smith's complaints hurt Smith more than Butler, because Grant was keeping Butler in power, knowing that, as a War Democrat, Butler's support was important to Abraham Lincoln in his quest for a second term in office. Smith was relieved of command, and spent the rest of the war in a desk job.

It was at the beginning of 1865 that Butler's military career came to an abrupt end. With the election over and Lincoln a winner, the administration no longer needed Butler's good will. After he botched attempts to take Fort Fisher and close the port of Wilmington, North Carolina, Grant replaced him with General E.O.C. Ord. "Without him, the Army of the James may have been less colorful," Mr. Longacre observed, "but it was also more successful." Other ineffective commanders were also replaced. With truly able generals, the Army of the James, for the first time, waged a triumphant campaign, its one and only. Ord led the XXIV Corps and the attached V Corps in a forced march, which provided weight to the Union attacks on Lee's army, forcing the Army of Northern Virginia to surrender on April 9, 1865, at Appomattox Court House.

The Third Annual Lincoln Colloquium, sponsored by the National Park Service, the Sangamon County Historical Society, and the Lincoln Group of Illinois, will be held on Saturday, October 15th, from 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at the Lincoln Library in Springfield. Speakers will include Dr. Craig Colten, historical geographer at the Illinois State Museum; Dr. Thomas Keiser of Lincoln Memorial University; Helen Crocker of Western Kentucky University; and Richard Sloan, president of the Lincoln Group of New York. The registration fee, which includes a luncheon, is \$15 for members of the Lincoln Group of Illinois or the Sangamon County Historical Society, and \$17.50 for non-members. For more information, call the Lincoln Home National Historic Site Visitors Center at 217/492-4150.

A reminder: the 6th Annual Midwest Civil War Collectors Show will be held on September 17 in Wheaton, Illinois. For further information, call Robert Nowak at (312) 539-8432.



The New Books compiled by Dick Clark

Huston, James L. *The Panic of 1857 and the Coming of the Civil War*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1987. \$32.50.

Kearny, Philip. *Letters from the Peninsula: The Civil War Letters of General Philip Kearny*. Edited by William Styple. Foreword by Brian Pohanka. Kearny, NJ: Belle Grove Publishing Co., 1988. \$17.95.

Lee, Robert E. *Recollections and Letters of General Robert E. Lee*. By his son, Captain Robert E. Lee. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Pub. Co., 1988. \$25.00. Original of 1904.

Martin, David G. *Carl Bornemann's Regiment, the 41st New York Infantry (DeKalb Regt.) in the Civil War*. Hightstown, NJ: Longstreet House, 1987. 323 p. First edition of 500. \$23.95.

Marvell, William. *Race of the Soil: A History of the 9th New Hampshire*. Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publ. Co., 1988. 560 p. \$35.00. One of Fox's Three Hundred.

Maryland. *Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-5*. 2 vols. Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications, 1986. \$75.00. Original of 1898.

Matheny, H.E. *Wood County, West Virginia, in Civil War Times*. With an account of the guerrilla warfare in the Little Kanawha Valley. Parkersburg, WV: Trans Allegheny Books, 1987. \$29.95.

McAulay, John D. *Civil War Breech Loading Rifles*. A Survey of the innovative infantry arms of the American Civil War. Lincoln, RI: Andrew Mowbray, 1988. pbk \$12.00.

Meserve, William N. *Meserve Civil War Record*. Compiled and edited by Richard Alden Huebner. Foreword by Philip B. Kunhardt, Jr. Oak Park, MI: RAH Publications, 1987. \$25.00.

Michigan. *The Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War*. Detroit, MI: John K. King Books, 1986. Volumes 1-10 of the total 46 volumes, reprinted, as well as the index to the 46 volumes. Each \$12.95; Index \$50.00.

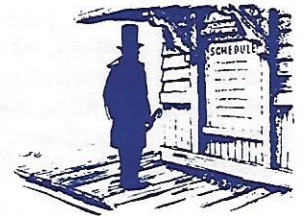
Miles, Jim. *Georgia Civil War Sites*. Warner Robins, GA: J & R Graphics, 1987. 138 p., illus., pbk \$8.95.

Moulton, Charles H. *Fort Lyon to Harper's Ferry. On the Border of North and South with "Rambling Jour"*. The Civil War Letters and Newspaper Dispatches of Charles H. Moulton (34th Mass.). Compiled and edited by Lee C. Drickamer and Karen D. Drickamer. Shippensburg, PA: White Main Pub. Co., 1987. 272 p. \$19.95.

"Reliving The Civil War... Why America's Bloodiest Conflict Still Grips Us 125 Years Later" was the cover story of the August 15th issue of *U.S. News & World Report*. The 9-page coverage includes a full-page commentary by James McPherson.

A living history demonstration will be presented on September 17-18, at the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site in Lexington, Missouri. For information about this event, contact the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, Inc., P.O. Box 1862, Fredericksburg, VA 22402.

BULLETIN BOARD



Future meetings

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

September 9: Nevins-Freeman Award Dinner. Recipient of Award, Robert K. Krick.

October 7: Senator Paul Simon on "Lincoln the Legislator." **Note: This is the first Friday of the month.**

November 11: Gordon Whitney on "Sherman's Lieutenants."

December 9: Karen Osborne & Ed Pierce on "Holiday Music of the Civil War."

January 13, 1989: Bruce Bazelon on "Gettysburg—After the Fight."

February 10: James M. McPherson on "Lincoln."

March 10: Jerry Russell on "Pea Ridge."

April 7: Charles Wesselhoeft on "The Army of the Tennessee." **Note: This is the first Friday of the month.**

May 4-7: Annual Battlefield Tour—Kennesaw Mountain, Andersonville.

May 12: To be announced.

June 9: To be announced.

New Members

Albert B. Kotler, 1095 Saxony Dr., Highland Park, IL 60035 (312) 432-6613.

Fred B. Kotler, 1107 N. Front St., Marquette, MI 49855 (906) 225-1006.

Robert E.A.P. Ritholz, 711 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago, IL 60614 (312) 327-7413.

Steven Sandusky, 36 Forestway, Deerfield, IL 60015 (312) 948-0627.

Roy Schickedanz, 35 Elm Lane, Glenwood, IL 60425 (312) 757-6045.

Theodore Zimmerman, 3839 Sherwin, Lincolnwood, IL 60645 (312) 674-5833.

Our 50th Anniversary Committee is requesting members to submit any materials they may have in their possession dealing with The Civil War Round Table. They are looking for memorabilia of all kinds, and also encourage members to write accounts of memorable moments. The Committee will pay for the copying of any materials and will return all photographs. When submitting photographs, they ask that you please try to identify as many members as possible. Please bring these items to a meeting or send them to Jerry Warshaw, 748 Hinman Ave., Evanston, IL 60202.

From September 16-18, National Park Service personnel will be conducting programs commemorating the September, 1863 Battle of Chickamauga and the November battles for Chattanooga. For information, call 800-338-3999.