

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVI, Number 10

Chicago, Illinois

June 1996

Michael W. Kauffman on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues"

by Barbara Hughett

One hundred thirty-one years after the first assassination of an American president, new discoveries are still being made about it. It has sometimes been difficult to sort out the valid new information from the outrageous and absurd. Until relatively recently, historians have generally been willing to abandon this field of study to the sensationalists and populizers. We seem to be entering a new phase where more scholars are engaging in serious study of the Lincoln assassination and the scrutiny of historical evidence surrounding it. Over the past decade or so, important work has been done by William Hanchett, William Tidwell and James Hall, and Thomas Reed Turner.

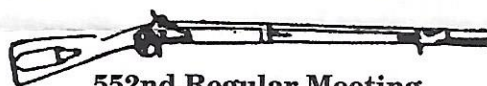
Another scholar who has been doing significant work in this area is Michael W. Kauffman, who will address The Round Table on the topic of "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues." Kauffman has written extensively about his findings in professional journals and other national publications. He serves as a tour guide for John Wilkes Booth Escape Tours and is a popular speaker on the lecture circuit.

His address will center on historical evidence on the Lincoln assassination: what's new and where to find it. "Most people think the case was closed long ago," he notes, "but surprisingly most of the facts that have come to light were never published. I've been gathering information on sources, people, and events connected to the story, and there seems to be no end to the new discoveries. I often tell people that *millions* of documents are still out there somewhere waiting to be found and brought into the fold.

"Turning up new information is quite simple. Organizing it, on the other hand, has been a major chore. I've been assembling all worthwhile data into a series of computer databases. When sorted out in various ways, new ideas and themes emerge right out of the same old sources that have been picked over since 1865. The resulting story is a fresh and fascinating new look at how John Wilkes Booth's



Michael W. Kauffman



552nd Regular Meeting

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Michael W. Kauffman on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues"

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Friday, June 14

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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: Sliced Sirloin of Beef with Black Truffle Sauce or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, June 12, by calling Registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-3228. 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 free at the General Parking lot, just south of the Union League Club.

conspiracy got started and how it remained active and undetected for so long. Few of these facts or ideas have appeared in print thus far."

A native of Pennsylvania, Michael Kauffman received his B.A. in history, with High Distinction and Honors, from the University of Virginia. His career has

(continued on page 3)

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940

c/o Carole Le Claire, Registrar
8417 Johanna Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714
Phone and Fax: 847-698-3228

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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, contact Membership Registrar Carole Le Claire at 847-698-3228.



BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

Gettysburg, South Mountain, and the Glorieta battlefield in New Mexico are the most recent recipients of funds from the sale of Civil War Battlefield Commemorative Coins. These grants bring to almost \$4 million the amount awarded out of about \$6 million received from coin sales. (For a list of previous recipients, see the May newsletter.)

The Gettysburg grant (\$408,000) went to the Friends of the National Parks at Gettysburg for three parcels of land, including a twenty-four-acre easement on the Weikert Farm, a tract adjacent to Little Round Top, and 8 acres where the Louisiana Tigers penetrated the Union line on East Cemetery Hill. At South Mountain, the Central Maryland Heritage League will use \$272,635 to continue its campaign to preserve key portions of the battlefield, including 1.5 acres across from the South Mountain Inn, seventeen acres and a historic stone house where the Iron Brigade made a charge at Turner's Gap, and five acres at Wise's Field in Fox's Gap. The \$50,000 Glorieta grant will assist the Conservation Fund in a \$156,000 purchase of 2.1 acres that will eventually be added to the Glorieta Unit of Pecos National Historical Park.

The Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites (APCWS), has acquired a 12.5-acre easement at the Chancellorsville Battlefield in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. It is the Association's fortieth transaction. The easement will provide a buffer between a seventy-acre residential development and the Chancellorsville Battlefield along Slocum Drive and State Route 610. The easement rests on the center of the Union defense line held by Slocum's XII Corps on May 3, 1863. The developer, Alex McCallister, also promises scenic buffers, building setbacks, height restrictions, sensitive street lighting, building color restrictions, etc.

Historic preservation fosters economic growth, according to a booklet published by the nonprofit Preservation Alliance of Virginia. The booklet, *Virginia's Economy and Historic Preservation: The Impact of Preservation on Jobs, Business and Community*, uses more than a dozen studies on tourism, property values, and monies spent on restoration of historic properties to demonstrate the importance of preservation.

According to the booklet, the tourism industry brings Virginia more than \$9 billion a year. Visitors to historic sites "stay longer" and spend an average \$423 per trip, compared to \$180 for other visitors. In addition, historic areas often gain more in property values than contemporary construction. For example, between 1980 and 1990 at Richmond's historic Shockoe Slip, assessments rose 245 percent compared to nine percent citywide. The booklet also asserts that the rehabilitation of 900 historic buildings in the last fifteen years created more than 12,000 jobs and represented \$350 million in private investment. The booklet is available from the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, PO Box 1407, Staunton, Virginia 24402.

☛ MAY MEETING ☛

by Larry Gibbs

On May 10 at the 551st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 94 members and guests heard longtime member Marshall Krolick speak on "The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign." Krolick related how the Union cavalry played a secondary role in the Battle of Chancellorsville (May 1-2, 1863) rather than the primary one first envisioned by Union General Joseph Hooker. The ineffectiveness of Union cavalry commanders and poor weather contributed to the disastrous Federal defeat.

"The latter day impression of Joseph Hooker is that of a commander who had many failures and a loss of confidence — and this is true. However, one branch of his army owed an immeasurable debt of gratitude to Hooker — the Union cavalry," opined Krolick. Hooker's Order #6 consolidated the Union cavalry under a single division with more important duties.

In April, 1863, Hooker wanted to strike Lee's Army of Northern Virginia while Longstreet's two divisions were dispatched to southern Virginia. Hooker and the Army of the Potomac held an advantage — roughly 135,000 to 62,000 — over Lee's army. With another Union frontal attack at Fredericksburg out of the question, Hooker felt he would have to outflank the entire Rebel position. On the Union right flank north of the confluence of the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers, both streams could be easily crossed if the weather cooperated. Hooker instructed General George Gage, with 10,000 cavalymen, to cross the Rappahannock, ford the Rapidan, and get behind Lee's army, cutting its lines of communication. "The Federals wanted to destroy bridges, roads, and the supply lines of the Rebels," stated Krolick. Listing the flaws of Hooker's strategy, Krolick explained, "For 10,000 cavalymen to hold 60,000 infantry stretches credulity. Additionally, the coordination of a pincer movement of Union cavalry and infantry would be very difficult."

Most of Stoneman's cavalymen were not able to successfully cross the Rappahannock on April 14 as Hooker planned. Krolick asserted that "this one day's delay changed the entire campaign. By the 15th the heavy rains caused the river to rise seven feet." As a result Stoneman's main body of cavalry set up camp a dozen miles north of the Rappahannock. Rain continued and the crossing of the two rivers was delayed for two weeks. Krolick suggested, "the emphasis on Union cavalry shifted from primary to secondary importance because of these events. One of the imponderable questions of the Civil War is: What would have happened if Stoneman's 10,000 cavalry had crossed on the 14th instead of waiting?"

Now Hooker changed his strategy. Instead of waiting for Stoneman's cavalry to complete their mission, Hooker planned to move his infantry at the same time. Three Union corps moved 20 miles northwest of Fredericksburg to catch the Confederates in a pincer move. On April 29, Hooker's cavalry and three corps crossed Kelly's Ford on the Rappahannock. Krolick criticized Stoneman, stating, "Stoneman split his brigades which was inexcusable, and he delayed an advance to hold a meeting."

The slow progress, lack of aggressiveness, and relative ineffective leadership of the Union cavalry reduced its overall impact at the Battle of Chancellorsville. Krolick claimed that "the real cause of Union defeat at Chancellorsville was the failure of Hooker, not the loss of cavalry. Lee took a bold gamble at the Battle of Chancellorsville, and took advantage of the confusion created by ineffective Union leadership with "Stonewall Jackson's famous flank attack on May 2. "The Federals detected but misinterpreted this Rebel move," explained Krolick. "The one intangible for the Union after Chancellorsville was the continued development of morale in the Union cavalry," Krolick concluded.

KAUFFMAN (continued from page 1)

included work in television engineering and production, writing, and photographic consulting. He is the founder and director of K&P Production company. He has served as a consultant to a number of prestigious concerns, including the National Archives, Library of Congress, National Park Service, and the Arts & Entertainment television network. He has appeared on the A&E series, "Civil War Journal." Kauffman was an expert witness at a recent court hearing for the exhumation of the remains of John Wilkes Booth.

Summer Executive Committee Meeting

President-elect Larry Gibbs has announced that the Summer Executive Committee meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13, at Notre Dame High School, 7655 Dempster, in Niles. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m., and a lunch will be served. All past presidents and 1996-97 officers and committee chairs are urged to attend. Additional information about the agenda will be sent to 1996-97 Executive Committee members prior to the meeting.

The Lincoln Group of Illinois will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, June 15, at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street and North Avenue. The business meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m. in the Crown Room. Former Round Table President Dan Weinberg will provide a background sketch of the CHS exhibit, "The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America," and will also be available for comments and questions during the tour of the exhibit. At 1:00 p.m. a luncheon will be served in the Society's Big Shoulders Cafe. A self-guided tour will follow the luncheon. From 2:00-5:00 p.m., a special exhibit on the Lincoln assassination may be viewed at the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 357 West Chicago Avenue. The cost of the luncheon and tour is \$20. To make reservations, call Phillip Bean at 708-829-6515.

The new interim address of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago is:

c/o Carole Le Claire, Registrar
8417 Johanna Drive
Niles, Illinois 60714
Phone and Fax: 847-698-3228

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Sullivan, Constance, ed. *Landscapes of the Civil War— Newly Discovered Photographs from the Medford (MA) Historical Society*. Alfred A. Knopf. 1995. \$40.00.
- Sullivan, George. *Matthew Brady: His Life and Photographs*. Cobblehill Press. 1994. \$15.99.
- Sumrall, Alan K. *Battle Flags of Texans in the Confederacy*. Eakin Press. 1995. \$29.95.
- Swank, Walbrook D. *Battle of Trevilian Station: The Civil War's Greatest and Bloodiest All Cavalry Battle*. Burd Street Press. 1994. Pbk. \$14.95.
- Sword, Wiley. *Mountains Touched with Fire: Chattanooga Besieged, 1863*. St. Martin Press. 1995. \$27.50.
- Taylor, Gray N., ed. *Saddle and Saber: The Letters of Civil War Cavalryman Corporal Nelson Taylor (9th N.Y. State Cav.)*. Heritage Book Publishers. 1993. Pbk. \$21.00.

Special Executive Committee Meeting

- President Carole Cierniak has announced that there will be a special Executive Committee meeting on June 14, at 5:30 p.m., prior to the dinner meeting. The purpose will be to take a vote on our meeting site for next year. All past presidents and all 1995-96 officers and committee chairs are urged to attend.

Former President Jerry Warshaw will address the breakfast meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Evanston, on June 20, from 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the dining room of St. Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Avenue, Evanston. His topic will be "Evanston and the John Evans, Lincoln, Civil War Connection."

Former President Barbara Hughett was awarded a Certificate of Excellence by the Illinois State Historical Society in the "Printed Materials: Ongoing/Periodical" category for her work as editor of three Illinois historical newsletters — the Newsletter of The Civil War Round Table; *The Lincoln Newsletter*, published by the Lincoln College Museum; and *The Little Giant*, published by the Stephen A. Douglas Association. The award was presented during the Society's annual meeting, at the Awards Luncheon, held at the Lisle Hilton on April 27.

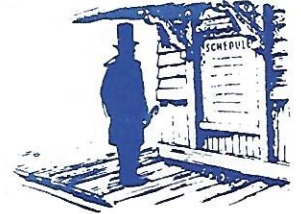
Schimmelfennig Boutique

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.
- June 14:* Michael W. Kauffman on "The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues"
- September 13:* Stephen R. Wise on "The Gates of Hell: The 1863 Charleston Campaign"
- October 18:* James M. McPherson, Nevins-Freeman Address
- 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"
- 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 MEMBER

Rachel Bok Goldman, 50 E. Bellevue, Chicago, IL 60611, 312-751-1411

Change of Address

Tom Durr, 5310 N. Chester #407, Chicago, IL 60656
 Vera Pallin, 2221 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60618
 Muriel Underwood, 2221 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60618

The Union League Club Civil War Round Table monthly luncheon meeting will be held on Monday, June 24; Marshall Krolick and Frank Patton will discuss "The Peninsular Campaign of 1862." A reception begins at 11:30 a.m.; lunch is at noon. The per-person charge is \$15. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

Longtime Round Table member Robert Grossman died in late April. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family.

James T. Hickey, Round Table member, noted historian, and the recipient of The Round Table's 1987 Nevins-Freeman Award, died on May 13 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was 73. We offer our deepest condolences to his family, especially his widow Betty, his daughter Sister Julia, his mother Goldie Huffman, and his sister Joanne Schlitt. Jim was loved and admired by many people, and did extensive and important work in the fields of Illinois history and Abraham Lincoln scholarship. He was often called a "historian's historian."