

THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume LVIII, Number 5

Chicago, Illinois

February 1998

D. Scott Hartwig on "The Face of Battle: The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"

by Barbara Hughett

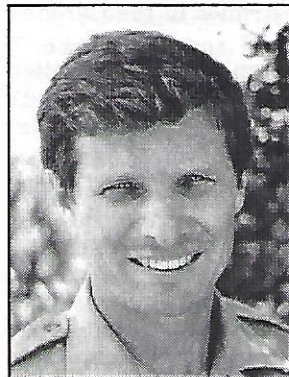
The Battle of Gettysburg, fought from July 1 to July 3, 1863, is considered by many to be the greatest battle of the Civil War and one of the crucial events in American history. More than 170,000 soldiers fought in it, and over 50,000 became casualties.

D. Scott Hartwig will address The Round Table on February 13; his topic will be "The Face of Battle: The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863." In his presentation, Mr. Hartwig will explore the face of the battle at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. His purpose is not to scrutinize generals or generalship, or criticize strategy and tactics, or narrate the course of the battle that day. Instead, its purpose is to isolate one infantry regiment and examine its experience of battle on this single day of battle, and thus learn something of the nature of combat at Gettysburg and how it was seen and felt by those who fought it.

Hartwig chose an infantry regiment for study because infantry was the backbone of Civil War armies. The clash of infantry against infantry was inevitably the decisive struggle in Civil War battles. The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry was chosen because there is considerable documentation about its part in the battle of July 3, and because it was a fairly typical line regiment in the Army of the Potomac. It was also picked for its position in the Union line of battle that day. The 69th was positioned directly in front of the "clump of trees," that landmark used to guide the assaulting columns of Confederate Generals Pickett and Pettigrew in their grand attack on the 3rd. By viewing the battle through the eyes of these Pennsylvanians, something can be learned about what it

meant to face battle as an infantry at Gettysburg, and in the American Civil War.

A native of Baltimore, David Scott Hartwig grew up in Pennsylvania, where he moved with his family when he was five years old. He attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie, Wyoming, from 1974-1979, earning a bachelor's degree in 1978. While attending the university he studied under the late E.B.



D. Scott Hartwig

(continued on page 3)



568th Regular Meeting

☆ ☆ ☆

D. Scott Hartwig on "The Face of Battle: The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"

☆ ☆ ☆

Friday, February 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: Grilled Chicken with Red Pepper Sauce
or Catch of the Day



Please Note

Make your reservation by Wednesday, February 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.

NEW PARKING POLICY: Effective immediately, the new parking rate is \$8.00 if you park between the hours of 4:30-10:30 p.m. in the lot adjacent to the Union League Club. If you do not get your ticket validated or park beyond the hours listed, you must pay the full amount.

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.....	Robert Girardi
Senior Vice President	James Nethery
Vice President	Charles Bednar
Vice President	Bruce Allardice
Treasurer	Roger Bohn
Secretary	Norman Poteshman
Assistant Treasurer	Janet Linhart
Assistant Secretary	Ted Birndorf
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, Mary Munsell Abroe

Founding Newsletter Editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968

Board of Trustees

Terms expiring in 1998: Donni Case, Paul Eastes, Scott Graham, Thomas Herres
Terms expiring in 1999: Paul Feiss, Michael Marienthal, Frank Patton, Marge Smogor

Committee Chairs

Spring Battlefield Tour	Charles Bednar
Co-chairs:	Brooks Davis, Roger Bohn
Battlefield Preservation Fund	Mary Munsell Abroe
Ways and Means	Kurt Carlson
Membership	Eleanor Leichenko
Publications/Printed Material	David Richert
Publicity/Public Relations	Don Sender
Hospitality	Janet Linhart, J.J. Smart
Nominating	Larry Gibbs
Field Artist/Archives	Jerry Warshaw
Nevins-Freeman Award	Mary Munsell Abroe
Honors	Norman Poteshman
Battlefield Preservation Raffle and Schimmelfenning Boutique	Paul Eastes Scott Graham, Bing Owens
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.

President Robert Girardi addressed the Wilmette Historical Society on January 13. His topic was "A Civil War Soldier from the North Shore Returns Home."

Former President Marshall Krolick spoke to the Twin Cities Civil War Round Table in Minneapolis on January 20. His topic was "Mead's Council of War on July 2 at Gettysburg."

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION

☆ UPDATE ☆

by Mary Munsell Abroe

Part of the Camp Letterman site may be preserved from development: The January 1998 issue of *Civil War News* reports that the Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (GBPA), cooperating with state preservation officials, presently is negotiating with two developers in an effort to save part of the Camp Letterman hospital site at Gettysburg. Camp Letterman was established soon after the battle in order to merge sixty smaller field hospitals and expedite treatment of the wounded. Located east of Gettysburg, the massive complex sheltered five thousand Union and Confederate troops at the height of its use.

The parcels in question are one of forty acres, where the hospital's tents sat near rail lines and a pure water supply, and an adjacent eight-acre plot, site of the operation's administrative headquarters. Plans for the larger property revolve around the construction of a grocery store. According to Walter Powell of the GBPA, the project probably will not be halted but may be ameliorated by the creation of a buffer zone. The optimal outcome anticipated here includes the erection of a commemorative marker and the developer's possible contribution to preservation in another venue. The plans of Caldwell Development Company presently specify use of about half of the forty-acre tract along Route 30, east of Gettysburg in an area that already is heavily developed.

Powell was more sanguine about prospects regarding the smaller parcel, which is owned by Messiah College in nearby Grantham. While original plans for the site focused on retail shopping, wetlands and right-of-way issues have obstructed the issuance of permits. The developer's option (for about \$500,000) expires in summer 1998, and Powell was optimistic about GBPA's ability to acquire the acreage and institute a successful fundraising campaign.

FYI 1997-98 witnesses contributions from The Civil War Round Table of Chicago to preservation projects in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina: Our Battlefield Preservation Fund has provided monies during the current fiscal year to assist ventures in three states. A listing of our donations thus far is as follows:

- 1) \$500 to the Bentonville Battlefield Association (particularly appropriate in view of the upcoming battlefield tour, "Western Armies in the Carolina Campaign");
- 2) \$500 to the Virginia War Museum (for the restoration and interpretation of Lee's Mill, outside Richmond);
- 3) \$100 annual dues to the National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Frederick, Maryland (whose founder is fellow member Dr. Gordon Dammann of Lena, Illinois);
- 4) \$200 annual dues to the Save Historic Antietam Foundation; and
- 5) \$500 to the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites for inclusion in a "matching funds" campaign to support the Association's acquisitions at Third Winchester and Brandy Station.

(continued on page 4)

❖ JANUARY MEETING ❖

by Roger E. Bohn

At the 567th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago on January 9, Daniel E. McCarthy presented "The 83rd Illinois Volunteer Infantry" before 90 members and guests. McCarthy has had a lifelong interest in the Civil War, has been actively involved in the Chicago area for many years, is a reenactor with Co. E., 1st Michigan Engineers, and is a past president of the Salt Creek Civil War Round Table.

In the spring of 1861, the people of the North sprang to the call for a volunteer army after the fall of Fort Sumter. Monmouth, Illinois, was one of the first to heed that call. The rural town was largely Republican, not strongly Abolitionist, with few wanting slavery in the Territories, and most strongly against dividing the Union. Scattered units were sent shortly after the first shots were fired at Sumter, and in August 1862, the 83rd Volunteer Infantry was formed, primarily with men from Warren, Mercer, and Knox Counties.

Abner C. Harding enlisted as a private, and was promptly elected a colonel. Josiah Moore was "just one more" to enlist and become a captain. William B. Kearney, Virgil Earp (of "Tombstone" fame), and other enlistees were characters in vignettes provided by McCarthy. The 83rd left by train for Burlington, Iowa, and by steamer to St. Louis, Cairo, and eventually to Forts Henry and Donelson, arriving in September of 1862. The Unit was very unhappy at being separated into the two forts. The 83rd was then used to move Fort Donelson to nearby Dover, Tennessee, which was more suitable, considering the use of the waterway as a Navy transport "highway." The old Confederate fortifications, meant to *block* the river, were abandoned. The unit was reunited at Fort Donelson in November 1862.

In January 1863, Confederate General Braxton Bragg ordered Cavalry Commander Joseph Wheeler and General Nathan Bedford Forrest to "harass shipping on the Cumberland River." Learning of this, the Federals suspended shipping, and Wheeler had nothing to "harass," so he decided to capture Dover. Forrest disagreed and felt that supply shortages would make it impossible to hold Dover, even if they did capture it. Wheeler insisted and Forrest absolved himself of any blame in the matter.

McCarthy then interjected an interesting view into the life and career of the 83rd's Harding, who was born in 1807. He became a lawyer, married twice, had two children, and through friendship with U.S. Representative Thaddeus Stevens, he became a Radical Republican in 1837. In 1847, at Monmouth, he entered the Illinois General Assembly, and in 1851, he had to retire due to failing eyesight. He then went into the banking and railroad businesses. His Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad operated until 1968. With this background of *non-military* successes, McCarthy returned to Harding's 750 men, including the 83rd, with Wheeler and Forrest's 4,000 troopers riding down upon them.

Harding called for help from Colonel Lowe at Fort Henry, but logistical problems caused considerable delay, since Wheeler's troops were blocking their access road. Forrest and Wharton had Harding between them and demanded surrender. Harding "declined." Uncoordi-

nated attacks by the Confederates were met by Harding, who "was everywhere with saber in hand, leading the men," and Forrest was forced to retreat.

A well-timed bayonet charge by Harding's men regained their rifle-pits, as well as their supply of ammunition, and the transport schooner "Wildcat" brought up the Navy's gunboats. By then, the Confederates were gone. Forrest vowed never again to serve under Wheeler, having been dead-set against Wheeler's battle plan from the outset—and he never did. This lack of a "concert of action" would only hurt the Confederate cause.

With Fort Donelson and the Cumberland River now secured for the Union, the 83rd, in June 1863, was put into the Reserve Corps. Harding was promoted to Brigadier General and, without the 83rd, went to Mufreesboro, Tennessee. That month, Harding resigned due to his ever-failing eyesight and returned to Monmouth, where he was eventually elected to the United States Congress.

After Donelson, the 83rd then performed guard duty and skirmished along General William T. Sherman's march line from Atlanta. One incident involved a member of the unit named Marion Michael Morrison, who escaped capture by "playing dead." His grand-nephew was actor John Wayne. In June of 1865, the 83rd was mustered out in Nashville and discharged in Chicago.

Albert C. Harding was elected to Congress, serving until 1869, when his health began to fail. He died in July 1874, with an estate of \$2 million in "1874 dollars." His son, George F. became the first Harvard graduate from Illinois, expanded the family fortune, and moved to Chicago, where he became an avid art collector. George's son, George, Jr., became involved in Chicago politics, continued his father's art collecting, and died in April of 1939. A tiny portion of the Hardings' magnificent collection can be seen today in the Arms and Armour Hall of the Art Institute of Chicago. McCarthy stated that the bulk of the collection is "in the basement."

D. SCOTT HARTWIG (continued from page 1)

"Pete" Long, who, of course, was a longtime member of this Round Table and was our 1979 Nevins-Freeman honoree.

Hartwig accepted a seasonal position with the National Park Service at Gettysburg National Military Park. In the summer of 1980, he began work as a full-time historical interpreter at the Eisenhower National Historical Site. He transferred to Gettysburg NMP in 1981, and was promoted to Supervisory Park Ranger. He was promoted to Supervisory Park Historian in 1994.

Among his publications are *A Killer Angels Companion* (1996), *The Maryland Campaign of 1862 and Battle of Antietam: A Bibliography* (1990), and *The Complete Pictorial of Battlefield Monuments and Markers* (1988). Hartwig has also written numerous articles for magazines and professional journals. He received the 1993 National Park Service Mid-Atlantic Region Freeman Tilden Award for excellence in interpretation.

Founding member Ralph G. Newman continues to recuperate from his recent illness. Cards and messages can be sent to his home, 175 East Delaware Place, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

The New Books

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



Blackford, Susan A., compiler. *Memoirs of Life In and Out of the Army of Virginia During the War Between the States*. Warwick House Publishing. 1996. 2 vols. \$95.00. Original of 1894-96.

Blight, David W. and Simpson, Brooks D., eds. *Union and Emancipation — Essays on Politics and Race in the Civil War*. Kent State U. Press. 1997. \$35.00.

Boritt, Gabor, ed. *Of the People, By the People, For the People and Other Quotations from Abraham Lincoln*. Columbia U. Press. 1996. \$19.95.

PRESERVATION REPORT (from page 2)

Members' participation in the monthly book raffle and the purchase of items at the Schimmelfennig Boutique advance the preservation efforts of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Members of the Battlefield Preservation Fund Committee (Mary Abroe, chair; Treasurer Roger Bohn; Larry Gibbs; and Marshall Krolick) thank all for their past support. Much remains to be done. Please continue to support our communal preservation effort, which justifies our existence as an organization dedicated to promoting Civil War study and scholarship.

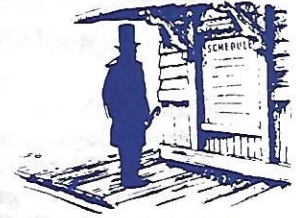
Former President Brooks Davis is leading a tour to "Lincoln Country" on May 8-11 for Cathedral Arts. Sites visited will include the Lincoln College Museum, all of the historic sites in Springfield, a meeting with Collum Davis, the director and editor of the *Lincoln Legal Papers*, and a visit to New Salem. The cost, which includes two nights at a hotel and two dinners, is \$330, or \$395 for a single room. For information, call Brooks at 312-944-5082.

The Seventeenth Annual Midwest Civil War Round Table Conference is now scheduled for April 24-16 in Fort Wayne. Speakers include James I. (Bud) Robertson, John Hubbell, Gerry Prokopowicz, Alan Gaff, Richard W. Hatcher III, and Stacy Allen. The \$100 registration fee includes two dinners and one lunch. An optional tour of The Lincoln Museum is included. For information, call 219-420-1100.

Vice President Bruce Allardice is the author of an article in the December 1997 issue of *Civil War History*. Entitled "West Points of the Confederacy: Southern Military Schools and the Confederate Army," the article examines prewar private military schools and their contribution to the training and officering of the Confederate army.

Former President Marshall Krolick and Trustee Frank Patton, president of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table, will address the luncheon meeting of the Union League Club Civil War Round Table on Manday, February 23. Their topic will be "Grant and Chattanooga." A reception begins at the Union League Club at 11:30 a.m.; luncheon is served at noon. The cost is \$15 per person. For reservations, call 312-435-5000.

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.

February 13: D. Scott Hartwig on "The Face of Battle: The 69th Pennsylvania Infantry at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863"

March 13: Mark Bradley on "Bentonville"

April 17: Keith Rocco on "Civil War Art" (**This is the THIRD Friday**)

April 29-May 3: Annual Battlefield Tour, "Western Armies on the Carolina Campaign"

May 8: Nathaniel Cheairs Hughes on "Writing Civil War History"

June 12: John Michael Priest on "Pickett's Charge"

NEW MEMBERS

Mitchell Byrne, M.D., and Pam Byrne, 2100 Lincoln Park West, #12-CN, Chicago, IL 60614, 773-244-0004

Lincoln's Birthday Events in Springfield

The Twenty-fifth Annual Abraham Lincoln Symposium, marking the 189th anniversary of Lincoln's birth, will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 12-13, at the Old State Capitol in Springfield. The theme is "Abraham Lincoln in Community and Context." Among the speakers are Ronald Rietveld, Brooks Simpson, Roger Bridges, and Rodney O. Davis. The Symposium will be held on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. It is open to the public, free of charge.

The annual Abraham Lincoln Association Banquet will take place on the evening of February 12 in the main ballroom of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel. James Fallows, editor of *U.S. News and World Report*, will be the main speaker. The Lincoln the Lawyer Award will be presented to Joseph Hartzler, chief prosecutor in the recent Timothy McVeigh bombing trial. Also featured will be a presentation of the new *Virtual Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*. Tickets are \$40 per person. A luncheon will be held at noon on Friday at Maldaner's Upstairs restaurant, featuring an address by Herbert Mitgang, former *New York Times* correspondent and author of several books on Lincoln and the Civil War. The cost of the luncheon is \$16 per person. Reservations are required for the banquet and luncheon. For information, call 217-753-7123.

The George L. Painter Lincoln Lectures will be held at the Visitor Center at the Lincoln Home National Historic Site on Thursday, February 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. The Lectures will be given this year by historical archaeologist Floyd Mansberger and Kim Bauer, historical research specialist at the Illinois State Historical Library. This event is open to the public, without charge. For information, call 217-492-4241.

Fredericksburg, Virginia, has been selected as the site of our 1999 Spring Battlefield Tour. Bruce Allardice will chair that tour.