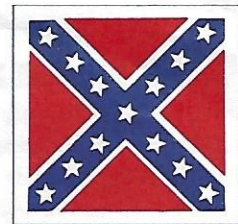


THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



Volume LXI, Number 9

Chicago, Illinois

May 2001



601st REGULAR MEETING

**ANNE BAILEY ON
"AFTER ATLANTA: HOW THE
CONFEDERACY
SELF-DESTRUCTED IN THE
WESTERN THEATER"**

Friday, May 11

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members \$35 - Nonmembers

Entree:

*Three-Cheese Chicken
Marinara
or Catch of the Day*



PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, May 7**, 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.

PARKING: If you are driving and coming from the south, turn left into the Mart Plaza lot just after crossing the river on Orleans. From the north, turn right from Orleans on Hubbard, left on Kingsbury, right on Kinzie, and left into the Mart Plaza lot. **Parking is \$7 with a validated parking sticker.**

Over the next few months, due to street renovations, the bridge south of the hotel will be closed. We apologize for this inconvenience.

ANNE BAILEY

~ on ~

"After Atlanta: How the Confederacy Self-Destructed in the Western Theater"

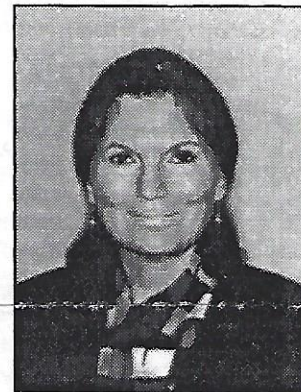
NO COUNTER STRATEGY PLANNED

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

The South faced a limited number of options in the autumn of 1864, after William T. Sherman captured Atlanta. With a presidential election scheduled for November, the Democrats had charged that Lincoln's war policy was a failure. However, Union General William T. Sherman's capture of Atlanta demolished that argument and helped propel Abraham Lincoln to victory in November.

Historians continue to debate the Confederacy's possibilities following their defeat at Atlanta. Questions remain: Should the Confederates have tried harder to counter the loss of Atlanta? Could Confederate leaders design a successful strategy to stop Sherman? Was Confederate General John Bell Hood's Tennessee campaign

the best option? Moreover, should Confederate President Jefferson Davis have tried harder to prevent Lincoln's reelection? And would it have mattered if he did? Dr. Bailey will suggest answers to all these perplexing questions when she addresses The Round Table on May 12 on the topic of "After Atlanta: How the Confederacy Self-



Anne Bailey

Destructed in the Western Theater."

Anne J. Bailey is the author of five books on the Civil War, numerous book chapters, and more than 140 articles and book reviews. She is general editor of "Great Campaigns of the Civil War," published by the University of Nebraska Press and "The Civil War in the West," published by the University of Arkansas Press. Her two most recent books are *Civil War Arkansas: Beyond Battles and Leaders* and *The Chessboard of War: Sherman and Hood in the Autumn Campaigns of 1864*, both published in 2000. The latter was a May selection of The History Book Club and won the Richard Barksdale Harwell Award of the Civil War Round Table of Atlanta.

A graduate of the University of Texas and Texas Christian

University, Bailey taught at Georgia Southern University and the University of Arkansas before coming to Georgia College & State University, that state's public liberal arts university, in 1997. She is currently under contract to Scholarly Resources for a new book about the March to the Sea for the American Crisis Series.



THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



Founded December 3, 1940
601 South La Salle Building, Suite C-817
Chicago, Illinois 60605
Phone: 847-698-1438
www.thecwrt.org

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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 Membership Committee, 601 South LaSalle Building, Suite C-817, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY ROGER E. BOHN

Our CWRT of Chicago's 51st Annual Tour to Antietam-Maryland reminds us all of just how gratifying it really is to be able to visit these sites, and to do our own "three-dimensional reading" as we cover these historically significant grounds. We should also be very grateful that "someone" worked to save these sites so that we *can* visit them. Part of that "someone" is the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), and they have recently published "A Guide to the Ten Most Endangered Civil War Sites in the United States." It is hoped that more of us will be inspired by the pleasure we derive from our Annual Tours to join in the massive effort needed to *keep and save* as much as we are able. The list is as follows:

Allatoona, Georgia, October 5, 1864, was a battle fought over the Western & Atlantic Railroad, one of Sherman's main supply lines after the fall of Atlanta. Urban sprawl in the Atlanta area is the main pressure point in preserving this site. It is rated Priority I, Class B by the Congressional Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC). *Priority I* is the highest degree of threat; *Class A* is the highest degree of military significance.

Brice's Cross Roads, Mississippi, June 10, 1864, has been described as "one of the most humiliating defeats in the history of the U.S. Army." C.S.A. General N.B. Forrest was pitted against Union General S.D. Sturgis, and it was a Confederate victory. The U.S. Colored Troops performed heroically in this action, considered a Priority I, Class B site by the CWSAC. The principal threat is increasing traffic and highway expansion.

Fort Fisher, North Carolina, December 7-27, 1864, and January 13-14, 1865. The fort defended the very important seaport of Wilmington, which was vital to the blockaded Confederates for imports from abroad. It was the last major port of entry for the beleaguered South. The main threat to Fort Fisher is *nature*, not man. Repeated hurricanes have necessitated the urgent need for repairs to the fort's protective revetment, and the status is Priority IV, Class A.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1-3, 1863, was the site of the most costly and largest battle ever fought in the Americas. The battle was the turning point of the war in the East, and Lee's second invasion of the North had been thwarted at a terrible cost. Only 4,731 acres of this 11,581-acre site are protected and it is ranked a Priority I, Class A. The principal threat is to the road network that once drew the armies to the town, and which now draws urban sprawl and chain restaurants and stores.

Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, September 12-15, 1862, is best known for John Brown's abortive attempt to arm slaves and

cause insurrection. The battle, however, has been described by Bud Robertson as "the most complete victory in the history of the Confederacy." T.J. Jackson coordinated the effort, which resulted in one of the largest mass surrenders in U.S. history. Only 2,729 acres of the 7,199-acre site are protected, and two major tracts are exposed to eminent home development and a huge water tower. Rated Priority I, Class B.

Loudoun Valley, Virginia, June 17-21, 1863, was a series of cavalry battles fought for possession of the area between Bull Run and Blue Ridge Mountains. Alfred Pleasonton and J.E.B. Stuart were the antagonists and both claimed victory. Urban sprawl and commercial development are the alarming threats to this Priority III, Class C area.

Mansfield, Louisiana, April 8, 1864, saw C.S.A. General Richard Taylor defeat U.S. General N.P. Banks at this Red River campaign battlefield. This was one of the South's last field victories of the war. It is ranked Priority II, Class A, and is threatened by a mining operation as well as residential sprawl.

Raymond, Mississippi, April 8, 1864, was a key battle in Grant's Vicksburg Campaign, and resulted in his decision to capture the state capital at Jackson before proceeding to Vicksburg. It is ranked Priority I, Class B, and is threatened by development pressure emanating from nearby Jackson.

Stones River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862-January 2, 1863, pitched Bragg against Rosecrans and left the Federals in control of Middle Tennessee. Ranked Priority IV, Class A; expansion of commercial development and a highway interchange will destroy one of the few pristine areas remaining in the fastest growing county in Tennessee.

The Wilderness, Virginia, May 5-6, 1864, was the first clash between Grant and Lee, just west of Fredericksburg. Stymied by the terrain, both armies marched and counter-marched to gain a better battleground, leaving behind 25,000 dead and wounded. Only 2,253 acres of 13,181 are protected, and the site is ranked Priority I, Class A. Intense residential and commercial developments threaten the site.

On our CWRT annual tours, we have visited most, if not all, of these battlefields. There are, of course, other sites at risk, but for now we must concentrate on the most urgent ones that are researched by the CWPT. Join them in their efforts, *literally!* Write or call:

Civil War Preservation Trust,
Attention: Membership
11 Public Square, Suite 200
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740
301-665-1400 or 1-888-606-1400

APRIL MEETING

BY LARRY GIBBS

"Some Thoughts on the Atlanta Campaign" was Richard M. McMurry's topic when he addressed 104 members and guests at the 600th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table on April 20. A well-known and popular speaker and author, McMurry's latest book is *Atlanta 1864: Last Chance for the Confederacy*. In his interesting and humorous style, McMurry's presentation placed the Atlanta campaign into the wider perspective of the entire war.

One of McMurry's central themes is that the Civil War was won—and lost—in the western theater. He proclaimed, "There is a great ailment among Civil War historians and I call it V.D.—Virginia Disease! Historians have previously concentrated too much attention on the Army of Northern Virginia and its general, Robert E. Lee, while ignoring the decisive battles of the West." The western battles resulted in Union conquest of great areas of land and sizeable numbers of soldiers. McMurry contended that virtually nothing changed after huge battles in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania—except tremendous loss of lives.

To buttress his position, McMurry cited four major campaigns, which brought on an eventual Confederate defeat. First, the 1862 campaign that resulted in Union victories at Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, and Shiloh, gave huge areas of land over to the Federals. Next, the Vicksburg campaign of late 1862 to mid-1863 gave the Union forces control of the Mississippi River. The third campaign in his example resulted in Union victories at Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Knoxville in late 1863. Finally, the Atlanta campaign of 1864 turned out to be the last legitimate chance for the Rebels to win the war.

As McMurry summed up his views, "Unless the Confederate army could have won in Georgia in 1864, the Civil War was over!" Only a series of Union victories could ensure the nomination and reelection of President Abraham Lincoln. The Atlanta campaign was the final gasp of the Confederacy. "If the Confederacy could avoid defeats in 1864, many in the North would choose Confederate independence or the perpetuity of slavery," McMurry claimed, "but these Union defeats never occurred!"

For the writer of Civil War history,

McMurry stressed the importance of such factors as personal experience, a stern review of resources, and the personal viewing of the battlefields. He said that his own experiences of working in large military bureaucracies gave him insights into different levels of command.

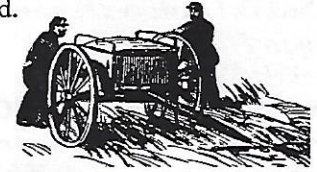
Before 1965, most histories written on the Atlanta campaign relied heavily on the memoirs of three of the conflict's generals: Union General William Tecumseh Sherman and Confederate generals Joseph E. Johnston and John Bell Hood. These generals gave pompous and defensive accounts, resulting in questionable accuracy. For example, Johnston's version of the long retreat from Chattanooga indicated no demoralization of Confederates. Later research has included the dispirited and demoralized entries Confederate soldiers made in their diaries and in letters they wrote to friends and family. The use of these sources has corrected the view of the morale of Johnston's infantrymen during the forlorn retreat.

For an example of how important it is for a writer to view the site where history was made, he cited the scene at Snake Creek Gap. In actually visiting this area, one can visualize the missed opportunity of Sherman's army when Johnston left the gap unfortified. The Civil War drama of April 8, 1864, McMurry contended, can come alive only after a personal visit to Snake Creek Gap.

In his decades of Civil War study, McMurry has changed some preconceptions of Joseph Johnston and John Bell Hood. The traditional interpretation of Joseph Johnston was that he was a great defensive general who would have inflicted terrible costs on Union armies if only given the chance to attack. However, McMurry opined, "Johnston had a great gift of winning loyalty of his soldiers, but his inability to work with superiors and the Confederate government officials hurt his effectiveness. Also, Johnston's total retreat to Atlanta was an absolute disaster for Confederate efforts. To his detriment, Johnston never thought in terms of loss of morale, and therefore he was not a good general."

Once Hood took command from Johnston, on July 18, 1864, his army fought four major battles over the next several

weeks. The heavy casualties and battle losses gave Hood the reputation of being an irresponsible offensive-minded general. Yet, McMurry claimed that none of these battles were fought the way that Hood had desired. An example of this occurred at Peach Tree Creek, when only two of seven divisions under General William Hardee maneuvered in the manner that Hood directed.



A REMINDER: MONDAY LUNCHES

At least since the 1960s (and maybe earlier), a group of Round Table members have regularly gathered for lunch, seasoned with informal Civil War discussions, on Mondays at various downtown restaurants. The group now meets at 12:15 on Mondays at, appropriately, Monday's restaurant (on the mezzanine level) at 203 North LaSalle Street. Everyone is welcome. No reservation is necessary, as a regular table is reserved for the lunch group each week. For more information, contact Paul Klekner (office: 312-540-2482; e-mail: paul.klekner@us.pwcglobal.com).

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Charles Bednar, chair of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 2000-2001 term.

President Roger E. Bohn
 Senior Vice President Janet Linhart
 First Vice President Ted Birndorf
 Second Vice President Marge Smogor
 Treasurer Jerome Kowalski
 Assistant Treasurer .. Norman Poteshman
 Secretary Nancy Jacobs
 Assistant Secretary David Zucker
 Trustees:

One-year term, to complete the two-year term of Ralph DeFalco (who moved out of the state), which will expire in 2002: David Jackowski

Two-year terms, which expire in 2003: Robert Carlson, Richard Farmer, Frank Pettice, Donna Tuohy

Three trustees, whose terms expire in 2002, will remain in office: Roger Rudich, Steven Stewart, and Bill Todd

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Alberts, Don E. *General Wesley Merritt—From Brandy Station to Manila Bay*. The Generals Books. 2001. \$31.95.
- Ayres, Carol D. *Lincoln and Kansas—Partnership for Freedom*. Sunflower U. Press. 2001. Pbk. \$18.95.
- Bowden, Scott and Bill Ward. *Last Chance for Victory—Robert E. Lee and the Gettysburg Campaign*. Savas Publ. Co. 2000. \$34.95.
- Brown, George W. *Baltimore and the Nineteenth of April, 1861—A Study of the War*. Johns Hopkins U. Press. 2001. Pbk. \$15.95. Original of 1887.
- Carr, Dawson. *Gray Phantoms of the Cape Fear—Running the Civil War Blockade*. John F. Blair, Publ. 2001. \$14.95.
- Davis, William C. *The Union that Shaped the Confederacy—Robert Toombs and Alexander H. Stephens*. U. Press of Kansas. 2001. \$29.95.
- Detzer, David. *Allegiance—Fort Sumter, Charleston and the Beginning of the Civil War*. Harcourt, Inc. 2001. \$27.00.
- Dew, Charles B. *Apostles of Disunion: Southern Secession Commissioners and the Causes of the Civil War*. U. Press of Virginia. 2001. \$22.95.
- Freehling, William W. *South vs. South—How Anti-Confederate Southerners Shaped the Course of the Civil War*. Oxford U. Press. 2001. \$27.50.
- Fuller, A. James. *Chaplain to the Confederacy—Basil Manly and Baptist Life in the Old South*. LSU Press. 2000. \$49.95.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE OF NEW YORK!

The Civil War Round Table of New York is celebrating its 50th Anniversary on May 12, with a symposium featuring an all-star cast of speakers, including Dennis Frye, Gary Gallagher, Harold Holzer, Gordon Rhea, and Jeff Shaara. For more information, call Patrick Falci at 718-525-3446.

Betsy Davis, Richard Farmer, and Vera Pallin are all recuperating at home after hospitalizations. We wish them speedy recoveries!

SCHIMMELFENNIG BOUTIQUE

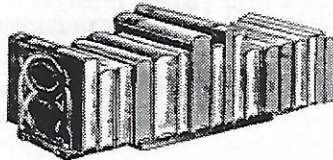
The history of The Round Table, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*, by Barbara Hughett, is available for \$30 per copy. You may purchase the book at the monthly meeting or order it from Morningside Bookshop, 260 Oak Street, Dayton, Ohio 45401 (1-800-648-9710). Add \$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.

SILENT AUCTION

A silent auction is held at each monthly dinner meeting, for books donated by late Round Table founding member Ralph G. Newman. The minimum bid is \$5 per book, with a minimum rise of \$1 per bid. Five minutes after the conclusion of the speaker's presentation, bidding will close and the last highest bid is the winner of each book. Proceeds go to benefit battlefield preservation.



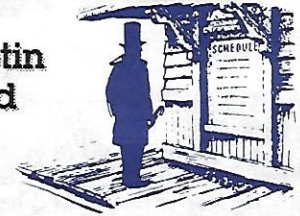
DAVID LONG TO ADDRESS STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON ON JUNE 9

David E. Long will address the annual luncheon of the Stephen A. Douglas Association, to be held in the Brio Lounge at the Holiday Inn, Mart Plaza on Saturday, June 9. Dr. Long, assistant professor of history at East Carolina University and the author of *The Jewel of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln's Election and the End of Slavery* (1994), about the 1864 presidential election, is currently at work on a book on the 1860 election.



He will talk about Stephen A. Douglas's enormous impact on the culture and politics of the 1850s and, most importantly, his role in providing a stage for Abraham Lincoln to begin his journey to the White House. For information and to make reservations, contact Brooks Davis (312-944-5082) or David Richert (drichert@ajs.org).

Bulletin Board



FUTURE MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 350 North Orleans Street, the second Friday of each month, unless otherwise indicated.

- May 11:* Anne J. Bailey, "After Atlanta: How the Confederacy Self-Destructed in the Western Theater"
- June 8:* Lesley Gordon, "General George Pickett"
- September 14:* Gary Gallagher, "Jubal Early & the Myth of the Lost Cause"
- October 12:* Brooks Davis, Nevins-Freeman Address: "Stephen A. Douglas & Abraham Lincoln: Friendly Enemies?"
- November 6:* Kathleen Ernst, "Too Afraid to Cry: Civilians at Antietam"
- December 8:* William McGrath, "Infernal Machines: The Sinking of the USS Cairo"
- January 11, 2002:* Daniel Weinberg, "Tattlings of a Collecting Voyeur"
- February 8:* Joe Davis, "The Battle at Shiloh"
- March 8:* Stephen Wise, "The United States Navy and the Confederate States Navy"
- April 12:* Jeffery Wert, "Gettysburg: The Third Day"
- May 10:* Eric Foner, "Reconstruction and its Significance in U.S. History"
- June 14:* Ted Savas, "The Augusta Powder Works"

NEW MEMBERS

- Keith Chamberlin, 9030 Conservancy Drive, NE, Ada, MI 49301, 616-682-9762
- Leigh Pietsch, 1776 Naperville Road, A200, Wheaton, IL 60187, 630-668-1776

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS

Marvin Sanderman,
marvinsanderman@msn.com

We are sad to announce the death of long-time member Hugh McAniff on March 29. Hugh, who would have been 98 in April, continued to attend Round Table meetings well into his 90s. One of his fondest memories was when, as a 10-year old boy, he met and shook hands with Major General Dan Sickles at the 50th reunion of the battle of Gettysburg in 1913. Our heartfelt condolences go to his family.