Frances H. Kennedy on “The Dollar$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation”

by Barbara Hughett

The preservation of our American Civil War battlefields began with the veterans of that conflict. It's been over a hundred years since Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park became the first Civil War battlefield to be administered by the federal government. Those of us who study the era appreciate the importance of preserving those physical places where American Civil War history happened. Unfortunately, much of this “hallowed ground” has been bulldozed away and covered with housing developments or shopping malls.

In recent years, several organizations have sprung up to spearhead the movement to save the battlefields by building rational strategies for the future so that we can fight land developers and beat them at their own game, using modern technology and legislative techniques. One such organization is The Conservation Fund, which was established to work with public and private partners to save important historic areas, as well as wildlife and wetland habitat. As part of its strategic efforts to protect our ties to the history of our nation, The Conservation Fund launched the Civil War Battlefield Campaign, a multiyear project aimed at protecting Civil War sites.

Through a program of land acquisition and protection, the Campaign is helping to preserve the unique opportunity that each of us has to be a part of our own history, to the study events of an era “right there where it all happened.” The Conservation Fund’s Civil War Battlefield Campaign has effectively worked in partnership with individuals, foundations, corporations, and nonprofit organizations to protect “hallowed ground” on twenty-one battlefields over the past three years.

The cultural benefits are easily recognizable, but are there economic benefits to battlefield preservation—and if so, what are they? On June 11, Frances H. Kennedy will address that question when she speaks to The Round Table on “The Dollar$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation.” Kennedy, director of the Civil War Battlefield Campaign of The Conservation Fund, is the author of a soon-to-be-released publication on the subject.

Prior to becoming director of the Campaign in 1988, Frances Kennedy served as administrator of the National Park Trust of the National Parks and Conservation Association, and as an administrator and consultant for several educational organizations. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University, as well as a master’s degree from the University of Minnesota. She is the editor of The Civil War Battlefield Guide (1990), the co-author of READSPELL (1989), and the author of numerous articles for historical periodicals and professional journals.
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION
STAR UPDATE STAR
by David Richert

The National Park Service has proposed a plan for preservation of the USS Cairo at Vicksburg National Military Park. Key components include reconfiguring existing roof sheathing and structural space framing to provide more efficient shelter from driving rain and to discourage roosting of birds; treating extant historic wood and cast iron to provide protection from insects, wind, and rain; preparation of preservation guidelines and development of a cyclic maintenance program for the historic and contemporary fabric; and providing an exhibit specialist to implement ongoing preservation and maintenance programs. The cost of the plan is about $1.4 million.

The Cairo is deteriorating because of a poorly designed roof system that fails to shelter the ship from wind and rain and that also acts as a roost for pigeons and other birds. There is also a lack of maintenance guidelines and maintenance personnel to compensate for natural aging and changes in the wood composition due to the USS Cairo being submerged for 100 years.

The USS Cairo Preservation Plan will be presented to Mississippi Senator Trent Lott. Working with Senator Lott, the National Park Service will explore funding sources for implementing the plan. Elements that can be accomplished with existing Park Service resources will be undertaken as soon as the opportunity arises.

Gettysburg National Military Park will be able to implement its landscape development plan for the Gettysburg National Cemetery Annex thanks to a contribution by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania. The landscaping will include a bronze monument portraying Union Captain Henry H. Bingham and Confederate Brigadier General Lewis A. Armistead, as well as new fencing, sidewalks, and a plaza entrance. The cost of nearly $1 million will be borne entirely by the Masons.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has received a $9000 grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council to finance research on the Civil War in Arkansas as part of the AHPP's Civil War Heritage Trail project. The research will result in a publication on the Civil War in the state. The information will also be used to interpret battlefields and other Civil War-related properties.

Houston businessman John L. Mau III has underwritten the cleaning and repainting of each cast iron plaque marking the positions of Texas units on the battlefield at Shiloh. The plaques date from the late 1890s when the early park commission made up of veterans of the battle designed a system of more than 475 markers to tell the story of each unit involved. Park budget cuts led to neglect of needed preservation work. Refurbishing the markers in time for the park's 100th anniversary on December 27, 1994, has been made a top priority. The cost of cleaning and repainting each plaque is about $35. Persons interested in helping underwrite maintenance costs should contact Superintendent Woody Harrell, PO Box 61, Shiloh, TN 38376.

The Friends of Shiloh Battlefield has been organized to provide support for commemoration, preservation, and educational activities. For information write Friends of Shiloh Battlefield, PO Box 100, Shiloh, TN 38376.

Hal Ardell, longtime member and Round Table tape record librarian, will be awarded the third annual Al Meyer Award, bestowed for outstanding service to The Civil War Round Table, at the June 11 meeting. In addition to preparing professional audio tapes of each monthly address and making tape cassettes available to members, Hal accomplished the difficult and painstaking task of restoring many of our old meeting tapes from the 1950s and 1960s.
MAY MEETING

by Barbara Hughe...
The New Books
Compiled by C. Robert Douglas

Original of 1958.

“Tenting Tonight?”
Is anyone interested in singing, playing, and researching the music of the Civil War era? Member Eileen Crowley is seeking to form a group if sufficient interest is indicated. You can reach Eileen at (312) 415-0200 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or at (312) 545-6253 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Frank Byrne, our March speaker, is the editor of the Voices of the Civil War Series, to be published by The University of Tennessee Press. The series is designed to present various aspects of the Civil War era, from the points-of-view of people who lived in that era. The series will contextualize the personal accounts of people who lived through the experience of the American Civil War within the larger framework of established scholarship on the period and expand previous notions by offering new perspectives.

If, in the course of your study and research, you have come across a document which you would like to edit and submit for consideration for the series, Dr. Byrne invites you to contact Meredith Morgan, Acquisitions Editor, The University of Tennessee Press, 293 Communications Building, Knoxville, Tennessee 37996-0325, (615) 975-3321.

The Round Table, The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship, by Barbara Houghton, is available for $90 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.

Schimmelfennig Boutique
In addition to The Round Table history, the following items are available at each monthly meeting:

- Lapel pins $3.00 each, two for $5.00
- Mugs $2.00 each, two for $3.00
- Meeting tapes $7.00 each
- Civil War Buff posters $10.00 each

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the programs of The Civil War Round Table.

FUTURE MEETINGS
Regular meetings are held at the Holiday Inn Mart Plaza, 360 North Orleans Street (Buttons, 15th Floor), the second Friday in each month, except as noted.
June 11: Frances H. Kennedy on “The Dollar$ and Sense of Battlefield Preservation”
June 19: Executive Committee Meeting
August 1: Annual Picnic—Grant Woods, near Round Lake
September 10: William A. Young, Jr., on “Pickett’s Charge: A First-Person Impression of the Reverend First Lieutenant George W. Finley”
October 8: Stephen B. Oates, Nevins-Freeman Address
November 12: K. Jerry Williams on “The Confederate Navy in England”
December 10: Paul J. Kliger on “The New Mexico Campaign”
January 14: Harold Holzer and Mark E. Neely, Jr., on “Civil War Art”
February 11: Robert Remini on “Henry Clay, Slavery, and the Coming of the Civil War”
March 11: General Gordon R. Sullivan on “The Wilderness”
April 8: Stacey Allen on “New Discoveries at Shiloh”
May 6-8: Annual Battlefield Tour—Shenandoah Valley
June 10: Major Frank K. McKenzie, USMC, on “Combined Operations Against Charleston”

Changes of Address
Stephen Horton, 8105 Kolmar, Skokie, IL 60076, (708) 329-7727
Jerry Warshaw, 800 Hinman Avenue, #708, Evanston, IL 60202
Joyce Warshaw, 1570 Oak Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201
Dr. Walter Watts, 10 N. Tower Rd., Oak Brook, IL 60521

The Lincoln Group of Illinois will hold its annual meeting and luncheon on Saturday, June 12, at Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., and there will be a $6.50 charge for a box lunch. The speakers are Thomas P. Schwartz, curator of the Henry Horner Lincoln Collection at the Illinois State Historical Library, and Lincoln collector Jack Smith. To make reservations, call Philip Bean at (708) 960-1500.

The annual Round Table picnic will take place on Sunday, August 1, in Grant Woods, near Round Lake, Illinois. Committee Chair Paul Klekner will prepare flyers and maps, which will be mailed to all members in July.

Honorary Life member Ernest A. Griffin was named an honorary member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This honor was conferred upon him by SCV Camp Commander Lamar Roberts during the recent Round Table battlefield tour to Vicksburg, Mississippi.