Marshall D. Krolick on “The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign”

by Barbara Hughett

The Battle of Chancellorsville, which took place on May 1-4, 1863, in eastern Virginia, is remembered as a brilliant Confederate victory and, of course, as the battle in which General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson was mortally wounded. Cavalry played a vital role in the Chancellorsville Campaign, beginning in April 1863.

As part of his strategy for this campaign, Union General Joseph Hooker ordered General George Stoneman’s recently-created cavalry corps to precede the infantry movement by moving around Confederate General Robert E. Lee’s army. Once in the Confederate rear, Stoneman was to disrupt Southern communications and supply lines. Then he was to place himself in position along the line of retreat which Lee would be expected to take after he had been forced out of position by Hooker. Hooker ordered Stoneman, who had approximately 10,000 men, to march in two columns—one under General William Averell, toward Gordonsville; and the other, under General John Buford, to move toward the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad. Only one small cavalry brigade, under General Alfred Pleasonton, was to remain with the Federal army.

Marshall D. Krolick will address The Round Table on May 10 on “The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign.” In his remarks, Mr. Krolick will describe the progress and results of Stoneman’s march and, more importantly, its effect on the Chancellorsville Campaign. Also, he will review the Confederate reaction to the Federal movement, as well as Pleasonton’s actions, both claimed and actual, during the Battle of Chancellorsville itself.

A native Chicagoan, Marshall Krolick received his B.A. degree from Duke University and J.D. degree from Northwestern University School of Law. He is a partner in the Chicago firm of Deutsch, Levy & Engel. Mr. Krolick is past president of Congregation B’Nai Jehoshua Beth Elohim, in Glenview; past executive vice president of the Les Turner Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Foundation; and currently serves on the executive committee of the national Board of Trustees of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Marshall Krolick has been a member of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago since 1961. He has served, and continues to serve, The Round Table in many capacities. He was president (1971-72), newsletter editor (1974-79), and was named an Honorary Life member in 1985. He was the 1990 recipient of our Nevins-Freeman Award for distinguished scholarship and dedication to Civil War (continued on page 3)
THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

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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, 410 South Michigan Avenue,
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BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION
☆ UPDATE ☆

by David Richert

As of early March the Secretary of the Interior had
approved eleven requests for Civil War Commemorative
Coin revenues from battlefield preservation groups. The
funding totaled $2,637,165, leaving available $3,362,835
of the $6 million in revenues from coin sales. A number
of applications are pending and additional awards are ex-
pected to be made in the next few months.

The eleven recipients are: Schoolhouse Ridge, West
Virginia, $483,172 for the purchase of 56 acres; Grove
Farm, Maryland, $500,000 for 40 acres; Third Winchester,
Virginia, $500,000 for 222 acres; Malvern Hill, Virginia,
$419,000 for 519 acres; Cedar Creek, Virginia, $72,993
for 158 acres; Rich Mountain, West Virginia, $11,100 for
71 acres; Prairie Grove, Arkansas, $126,400 for 95 acres;
Spring Hill, Tennessee, $200,000 for 110 acres; Corinth,
Mississippi, $119,500 for 160 acres; Mill Spring, Ken-
tucky, $155,000 for 160 acres; and Resaca, Georgia,
$500,000 for 1,200 acres.

The Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson
County has purchased Roper's Knob, a 67-acre fortified
hill that was used as a signal post during the Battle
of Franklin. The property, which was zoned residential,
was purchased from a group of developers for $438,500.
During the Civil War, Roper's Knob was one of a string of
Union signal stations stretching from Nashville south to
Murfreesboro. The site still contains the original
earthworks. The Heritage Foundation is seeking dona-
tions to pay for the purchase. Contact them at PO Box
723, Franklin, Tennessee 37065 or call 615-790-0378.
Make checks payable to the Heritage Foundation, Atten-
tion Roper's Knob.

The Georgia Civil War Commission has reached an
agreement with Southlife Properties, Inc. to preserve
about five acres of the New Hope battlefield in Paulding
County. The site includes a portion of what is often called
"the Hell Hole" where Union forces suffered heavy casual-
ities as they charged through wooded ravines toward
entrenched Confederate forces. Southlife Properties is
developing a 92-acre residential community on the site of
the New Hope battlefield.

Also in Georgia, a local committee is attempting to
make a park out of the site of the last sizable fragment of
"Johnston's River Line," constructed by Confederate
General Joseph E. Johnston as he fell back from Kennesaw
Mountain. The 1500-yard remnant includes the only
Shoupade fort (arrow-shaped fort designed by Colonel
Francis Asbury Shoup) anywhere on public land. The
102-acre park site is in the middle of an industrial park.

We offer congratulations to Donni Case and Larry
Hewitt, who were married aboard the Creole Queen in
New Orleans on April 20. Donni is Round Table trustee
as well as chair of our Publicity/Public Relations Com-
mittee. Larry is a well-known Civil War scholar, and author
and friend of The Round Table. This was a real Round
Table romance; they met when Larry was the speaker for
our June 1991 meeting. They will reside in Chicago.
APRIL MEETING

by Larry Gibbs

On April 12 at the 550th regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table, 142 members and guests heard a presentation by John C. (Jack) Waugh, who discussed some of the important Civil War officers in his book The Class of 1846. Waugh is a freelance writer about current political issues, but explained that “I can’t stay out of the Civil War era.”

Waugh asserted that the West Point class of 1846 is symbolic of the fratricidal conflict known as the Civil War. “The Civil War was the most fantastic event in 19th century U.S. history. Natural friends were made into unnatural enemies in an unnatural war,” he proclaimed. The class of 1846 punctuated many contradictions and ironies. Among the members of this illustrious class were Thomas Jonathan “Stonewall” Jackson, George Brinton “Babe” McClellan, Abrose Powell Hill, George Edward Pickett, and George Stoneham. Often these one-time friends were adversaries on the battlefield. However, many of these friendships endured during and after the war.

A total of 59 men graduated in the West Point Military Academy class of 1846. This was the largest class in West Point history up to that time. More than a score of these men achieved some fame during the Civil War. The most promising graduate was George McClellan, while the least promising was perhaps the introverted Thomas Jackson. Reno, Nevada, was named in honor of an 1846 graduate, Jesse Lee Reno, who became a Union major general before he was mortally wounded on South Mountain (September 14, 1862). Samuel Davis Sturgis was the Federal general who helped Burnside’s brigade cross Burnside Bridge at the Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862). He later met defeat before the Confederate forces of Nathan Bedford Forrest at Brice’s Cross Roads (June 10, 1864). A roommate of “Stonewall” Jackson, George Stoneham, became a Union cavalry leader. Last in the 1846 class was George Pickett. He was a fine singer but history will remember him as the Rebel major general who lost a division at Gettysburg. Two future Civil War leaders, A.P. Hill and John Gibbon, began studies with the class of 1846 but did not graduate with their classmates.

“The most intriguing aspect of the class of 1846,” stated Waugh, “were the individuals and the resultant ironies. Brother against brother created ironies; soldiers against soldiers created even more ironies.” Waugh demonstrated his point by citing several specific examples. George McClellan and A.P. Hill remained friends even though they were on opposite sides in the Civil War. They would continue to be friends throughout the conflict until the death of Hill near the end of the war. Earlier both fell in love with and became rivals over Nellie Marcy. In the end, she loved Hill but married McClellan. Nevertheless the friendship persevered.

One of the armies that Rebel general “Stonewall” Jackson ran circles around in the 1862 Valley Campaign was that of Nathaniel Banks. Colonel George H. Gordon, an 1846 classmate of Jackson’s, realized that Bank’s army was in peril. Gordon found himself protecting this army from Jackson. “To illustrate how drastic changes happen in war,” continued Waugh, “Jackson claimed that he did not remember Gordon as a friend as the campaign concluded.”

In the late afternoon of September 17, 1862, Rebel General A.P. Hill’s soldiers finally arrived at the Battle of Antietam. His men mounted a desperate but successful charge. Hill and McClellan, the union commander at Antietam, were close friends from the class of 1846 who were involved in a historical irony: “In achieving this feat at Antietam, Hill probably cost McClellan his career,” explained Waugh.

Waugh indicated that the terrible war could not deter friendships made at West Point in the 1840s. On May 30, 1885, Memorial Day, at Antietam, a spirit of reconciliation prevailed. For the first time Rebel soldiers crossed Antietam Creek to be with Union soldiers. General George McClellan spoke of unity and a common purpose to show reverence for the common dead. Both armies rose, marching together. Alluding to this incident Waugh concluded that the Civil War was “a war of such ironies and a time of such passions.”

MARSHALL D. KROLICK (from page 1) study. In addition to speaking regularly on Civil War topics to schools and civic organizations, Mr. Krolick has also addressed Civil War organizations and symposiums throughout the country and has served as a guide for tours of Gettysburg and other Civil War battlefields.

His published works on the Civil War include articles which have appeared in Blue and Gray Civil War Quarterly, Civil War, and Gettysburg magazines. He is the author of the Introduction to Morningside House’s reprint of the History of the Eighth Cavalary Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, and for several years wrote a regular column in Civil War Times Illustrated. He has appeared before The Round Table on numerous other occasions over the years.

(Editor’s Note: Mr. Krolick is replacing our previously-announced May speaker, Charles P. Roland, who had to cancel his appearance due to illness.

Nominating Committee Report

Barbara Hughett, chair of the Nominating Committee, has announced the following proposed slate of officers for the 1996-97 term:

- President: Larry Gibbs
- Senior Vice President: Robert Girardi
- First Vice President: James Nethery
- Second Vice President: Charles Bednar
- Treasurer: Frank Patton
- Secretary: Bruce Allardice
- Assistant Treasurer: Karen Krieger
- Assistant Secretary: Norman Poteshman

Trustees (two-year terms, to expire in June, 1998):
- Ted Birndorf, Roger Bohn, Thomas Herres, Susan Phillips
- Trustee — one year term, to complete the unexpired term of Frank Patton, who has been nominated for treasurer:
  - Michael Marienthal

(Three trustees, whose terms expire in June, 1997, will remain, completing their two-year terms:
- Donni Case, Gene Holland, Janet Linhart)

The election will be held during the May meeting, at which time additional nominations for any of the above offices may be made from the floor.
The New Books
Compiled by C. Robert Douglas


The 56th Annual Meeting of the Lincoln Fellowship of Wisconsin was held on April 13 in Milwaukee. It featured addresses by Roger Fischer, Harold Holzer, and Judge Frank Williams. The group will charter a bus and travel to Chicago on June 8 to visit the Lincoln exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society; tour the Lincoln, Douglas, and Civil War sites with Brooks Davis, former Round Table president, as guide. The group will also visit the Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, owned by Dan Weinberg, former Round Table president.

Round Table member James Chenoweth, of Colorado, who frequently participates in our annual battlefield tours, has been writing a weekly column on Civil War and Civil War era-history for the Cattle Country News. We thank Karen Krieger for bringing this to our attention.

FUTURE MEETINGS
Regular meetings are held at the Union League Club, 65 West Jackson Boulevard, the second Friday in each month, except as noted.
May 1-5: Annual Battlefield Tour: Chickamauga and Chattanooga
May 10: Marshall D. Krolick on “The Cavalry in the Chancellorsville Campaign”
June 14: Michael W. Kauffman on “The Lincoln Assassination — The Investigation Continues”
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”

NEW MEMBERS
Susan E. Cox, 40 S. Stone Avenue, LaGrange, IL 60525, 708-482-9501
Paul G. Eastes, 2820 N. Racine, Chicago, IL 60657, 312-868-4243
Laurence Fagin, 898 White Oak Lane, University Park, IL 60466-3005, 708-534-1583
Ernst Melchoir, 407 S. Wesley, Oak Park, IL 60302, 708-386-3419
Robert M. Perrie, 2924 W. Catalpa, Chicago, IL 60625, 312-728-6139

Changes of Address
Michael A. Buck, 7449 Wailed Court, Orlando Park, IL 60462
Allen S. Goldman, 50 E. Bellevue Place, # 1101, Chicago, IL 6011
Frank Patton, 23860 S. State Line Road, Crete, IL 60417
Jackie Wilson, 1215 11th Street, # 308, West Moines, IA 50265, 515-327-9250

We are saddened to announce the death of Round Table member Donald Schouette on April 12. We offer our deepest condolences to his daughter Donni Case and to all his family and friends.

Former Round Table President Kurt Carlson will deliver a Civil War talk to the College of DuPage on June 7.

Dale Phillips, one of our tour guides for last year's tour to Charleston and an upcoming speaker for us next March, will address the annual banquet meeting of The Northern Illinois Civil War Round Table on June 7.