

# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE.

Founded December 3, 1940



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Chicago, Illinois

June 2004



## 632nd REGULAR MEETING

MARK L. BRADLEY ON "I RELY UPON YOUR GOOD JUDGEMENT AND SKILL': THE COMMAND PARTNERSHIP OF ROBERT E. LEE AND JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON IN 1865"

★★★★★

Friday, June 11

★★★★★

HOLIDAY INN MART PLAZA  
350 NORTH ORLEANS STREET

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

\$30 - Members/Non-members

Entrée:

Chicken Breast *Vesuvio*  
or *Catch of the Day*

(We are offering, on a Trial Basis, the option of choosing not to have dinner and coming only for the address at 7:30 p.m., for a charge of \$10 per person.)

### PLEASE NOTE

Make your reservation by **MONDAY, JUNE 7**, by calling Carole Le Claire at 847-698-1438, or by faxing her 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.

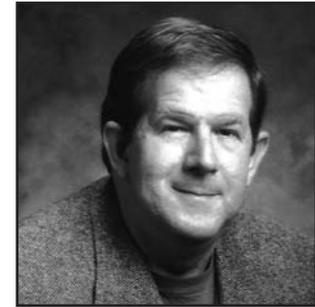
Until the end of the year, parking is at the lot at the corner of Hubbard and Orleans Streets. The hotel is providing shuttle bus service for guests between the lot and the hotel.

Parking is \$8 with a validated parking sticker. Tickets will be validated by the Round Table treasurer at the meeting.

## MARK LAWRENCE BRADLEY

- on -

"I Rely Upon Your Good Judgement and Skill': The Command Partnership of Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston in 1865"



Mark Lawrence Bradley

OLD JOE'S IMPROBABLE TRANSFORMATION

BY BARBARA HUGHETT

When Robert E. Lee was appointed to be the general-in-chief of the Confederate army in February 1865, his first order of business was to figure out how he could prevent William T. Sherman's army from slashing its way through the Carolinas and to deal with Ulysses S. Grant's forces at Richmond and Petersburg. This was an awesome task—even for so talented a military man as Robert E. Lee.

On February 22, 1865, Lee placed Joseph E. Johnston in command of the scattered and heavily outnumbered remnant of an army opposing Sherman. Lee was able to coax a surprisingly aggressive performance from his otherwise timid subordinate. On Friday, June 11, Mark Lawrence Bradley will address the Round Table on the subject of "I rely upon your judgment and skill':

The Command Partnership of Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston in 1865." In his talk, Bradley will examine Johnston's 1865 campaign against Sherman and Lee's role in "Old Joe's" improbable transformation.

A native of Indianapolis, Mark Bradley has been a resident of Graham, North Carolina, for the past two years. Since last August, he has been serving as research assistant for Professor Richard H. Kohn, Peace and Defense Curriculum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a teaching assistant in the History Department at that university from 2000-2003. Currently enrolled in the doctoral

program at the University of North Carolina, he received a master of arts in history there in 2002. He earned his bachelor's degree, *summa cum laude*, at North Carolina State University.

Among his numerous professional activities, he has been a staff ride leader for the U. S. Marine Corps infantry and engineer units stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina; a guest lecturer for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and a tour leader and speaker for the Blue and Gray Education Society and for the Civil War Education Association. He has spoken before Civil War Round Tables all over the country, including this one.

Mark Bradley is past president and current program chairman of the North Carolina Civil War Round Table and a member of the advisory council for the Lincoln Prize at Gettysburg College. He was the recipient of the Archie K. Davis Fellowship, of the North Caroliniana Society at the University of North Carolina, 2003-2004, and also of a Gilder-Lehrman Research Fellowship in 2004.

He was the recipient of the 2003 Robert D.W. Connor Award for the best article published in

the *North Carolina Historical Review* during the previous year and was a finalist in the 2001 Lincoln Prize competition. Bradley has written many additional articles for professional journals.

He is the author of an essay that is part of a volume titled *Audacity Personified: The Generalship of Robert E. Lee*, edited by Peter S. Carmichael and published by LSU Press. Volumes of this book (at \$25 each) will be available for purchase at the June meeting.



## THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



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28 East Jackson Building, #10-C817  
Chicago, Illinois 60604  
Phone: 847-698-1438  
[www.thecwrt.org](http://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, 28 East Jackson Building, #10-C817, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or contact [webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org](mailto:webmaster@www.thecivilwar.org).

## BATTLEFIELD PRESERVATION UPDATE

BY MARY MUNSELL ABROE

**Land Conservancy of Adams County Receives Third Annual Bearss Preservation Award:** In early May Ed Bearss announced that his choice as the third recipient of the Edwin C. Bearss Preservation Award, which was established in 2001 by the Civil War Round Table of Chicago, was the Land Conservancy of Adams County (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). The Land Conservancy receives \$1,000 from the Battlefield Preservation Fund of the CWRT in recognition of this honor—and the gratitude of Round Table members for its devoted and effective preservation activism.

The Round Table's executive committee voted to institute this award bearing Ed's name as the most appropriate way to show our organization's respect for him and his many years of devoted service to education and preservation. An essential element of the prize is the fact that annually Ed chooses the cause/project/group that he regards as worthy to receive a \$1,000 donation—in his name—from the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Ed announces the awardee each year on the first weekend in May, during the course of the Round Table's regularly scheduled battlefield tour—this year to Atlanta. The 2002 recipient of the first Bearss Award was the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, and last year's was the Kernstown Battlefield Association. Each of these fine organizations remains in the vanguard of the movement to protect its local Civil War heritage.

Dean Shultz of the Land Conservancy indicated recently to this writer that his organization's purpose is "to protect the rural lands and character of Adams County." Its method in that regard appears to be the key to its success, for the Land Conservancy often works—on a willing-seller basis—with private landowners on and near the Gettysburg battlefield in order to obtain easements on their properties. Mr. Schultz also noted that many of those easements are acquired by donation from local owners who want to see the historical and rural ambiance of their land preserved. As both Mr. Shultz and Ed Bearss have observed, easements constitute a creative, cost-effective way of prohibiting development of historically significant land and restricting the treatment of historic structures to appropriate and safe

measures. In fact, according to Ed Bearss, the Land Conservancy's wise use of easements has been a significant factor in the preservation successes of this relatively young organization. The Civil War Round Table of Chicago congratulates members of the Land Conservancy of Adams County, Pennsylvania, and those property owners whose generosity has promoted the protection of the county's land and legacy. We also thank you for your stewardship of a national treasure.

### CWRT Receives News of CVBT's Recent Activities:

In a letter of thanks for the Round Table's membership in the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust, CVBT president Mike Stevens informed us about his group's accomplishments of late. According to Dr. Stevens, "we have acquired land at Fredericksburg, as well as Chancellorsville, and have subsequently sold those tracts to the National Park Service. We've also just acquired over sixteen acres related to the Jackson Flank Attack on the Talley Farm ridge, just south of Route 3; our second twenty-acre tract on the Po River; our first acquisitions on the Spotsylvania Courthouse battlefield; and a five-acre tract known as Grant's Knoll near the Wilderness battlefield.... The planned Town of Chancellorsville, a development of over 1,200 homes and thousands of square feet of commercial/retail space, was denied a rezoning request early in 2003. As part of the coalition fighting this, we were extremely pleased with the outcome but we anticipate more work in our efforts to convince the property owner to preserve the core battlefield portion of the site."

One of the Trust's current projects involves 16-plus acres on the Talley Farm ridge (south of State Route 3, the old Orange Turnpike) that it recently acquired. The March 2004 purchase of this plot, which is part of the Jackson Flank Attack area, was actually funded by two CVBT members, because of a closing deadline; the land will eventually be sold to the Trust. With the prospect of a \$150,000 grant, the Trust's major challenge now is to raise \$50,000 in matching funds to support this acquisition. For additional information, please visit the website of the Central Virginia Battlefields Trust: [www.cvbt.org](http://www.cvbt.org).

## MAY MEETING

BY ROGER E. BOHN

On Friday, May 14, 85 members and guests heard **Bruce Tap** present "The Committee on the Conduct of the War: Its Origins, Assumptions, and Significance" at the 631st regular meeting of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. Bruce is an independent historian with a master's degree from Western Michigan University. He is the author of *Over Lincoln's Shoulder: The Committee on the Conduct of the War*.

After the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861, numerous military experts expressed the opinion that the North knew they had more resources and could readily organize their military powers to make short order of the rebellion. The first battle of Manassas rather squelched that notion—on both sides. Wilson's Creek and Ball's Bluff further dampened northern enthusiasm for the conflict and created doubts about the capability of newly elected President Lincoln. By December 1861, Congress began to have questions and to prod the Lincoln administration regarding its war efforts. The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was created to "look into the matter."

The Committee consisted of three senators—Chairman Benjamin Wade, Zachariah Chandler, and Andrew Johnson—and four House members—Daniel Gooch, John Covode, George Washington Julian, and Moses Odell—and it was armed with the power of subpoena. (Though Wade was always chairman, membership in the Committee changed a bit over the years.) Contracts for war materiel, conduct of the soldiers, and the treatment of prisoners came under scrutiny. The principal preoccupation, however, was every Union military setback or defeat, especially in the Eastern Theater. The Committee's findings were dutifully reported to the public. These Radical Republicans, as they were called, were known to be anti-slavery and grew more and more antagonistic to some of Lincoln's war plans.

The Committee on the Conduct of the War's primary considerations were *legislative oversight, separation of powers, and the appropriation of funds*. The Executive Branch normally oversees these matters, but the Committee had the right to evaluate the performance of the President, and therefore, the right to the "oversight" of the army and its functions, since the President—as Commander-in-Chief—is in charge of the army.

The "right to investigate," however, does not guarantee the *quality* of the investigation. To delve into the conduct of the war, the members should be expected to have some experience in military matters—but

this was not the case. None of the seven original members had *any* formal military training, and the resulting investigations were often naïve and amateurish—which made their whole effort questionable.

In the first place, the Committee members' lack of military training led them to accept the public's popular ideas about the conducting of a war—naïve, to say the least. Laced with romantic notions of courage, honor, and bravery, the Committee viewed victory as the result of these attributes, as opposed to training, organization, logistics, and battle tactics. Given the North's "superior resources, courage, and will," the Committee expected a quick and decisive victory. When this did not happen, they began to search for a scapegoat. One notion was that a straightforward frontal assault—Napoleon's concept—would result in a quick, decisive victory over the South. This was simplistic and not *realistic* in the setting of the American Civil War. The rifle-musket of the Civil War, by itself, changed the tactics necessary to victory. The use of artillery and entrenchments also dramatically changed the way a war had to be fought. The Committee considered McClellan's logistics and planning as "cowardly" and "unmanly."

The high cost of military training was considered "too expensive," as was the elitist lifestyle of the officers. The professional West Point officers led a life of "ease and riches," according to the Committee—too much so when compared to the lifestyle of the "average toiler for his daily bread," which included the average citizen/soldier. It was felt that men with innate natural abilities would take over and do much better than the "professional soldiers." The Committee felt that West Point "was the hot bed from which the rebellion was hatched," and imparted this opinion to the President and the general public. The "traitors" who left West Point and joined the Confederacy just "proved the point." McClellan and others were cited as "not patriotic, not anti-slavery, and really in sympathy with the South." Another instance was Meade's caution after the battle of Gettysburg, which the Committee viewed as a failure. Especially since they favored "Fighting" General Joseph Hooker, they attacked Meade's actions and his right to command.

The Committee also felt that slavery was the reason the South started the War; and, therefore, any general who was lenient toward slavery or who favored conciliation was not worthy of command. All of these opinions were regularly reported to the public. Only generals who came out in

favor of the Committee's ideology were considered capable of command (for example: Generals Hooker, Butler, Pope, Burnside, and Fremont). The Committee lobbied for the retention and promotion of such political favorites and when they met defeat in battle, it was charged to bad luck.

Bruce Tap indicated that the Committee was often inconsequential and sometimes actually *detrimental* to the war effort. No doubt, it created an atmosphere of uncertainty and conspiracy in the army's high command. Defeating the enemy would have been better served by paying more attention to the task-at-hand rather than in political shenanigans. The Committee could have been more *constructive* in their efforts, as was the Committee on Government Contracts, which was concerned with contracts between the War Department and various private contractors. The handling of the contracts was non-partisan, well focused, and conducted in a business-like fashion. The Committee on the Conduct of the War was none of these. Their subpoena power and an elastic and ambiguous set of guidelines proved to be their undoing.

There is a thin line between the legitimate oversight of the Executive branch, and the endeavor to supplant the president in directing the war effort. Partisan ideology and controversy should not have been part of the effort to achieve military victory, and the Committee often hampered that effort.

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### ED BEARSS AWARD UPDATE

The **Battlefield Preservation Committee** is pleased to publish the *Donor Muster Roll* for the 3rd Annual Ed Bearss Preservation Award. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following:

Mary & Mike Abroe, Jerry Allen, Gary Augustine, Chuck & Marilyn Bednar, Ted Birndorf, Roger & Ruth Bohn, Kurt Carlson, Robert Carlson, Steve Carlson, Terry Carr, Richard Cohen, Lorraine Colwell, James Cunningham, Brooks Davis, Marybeth Foley, Sid Gamertsfelder, Larry Gibbs, David Howe, Cindy Intravartolo, Nancy Jacobs, Millie Jarvis, Jerome & JoEllen Kowalski, Bruce Levy, Janet Linhart, Richard McAdoo, Mark Matranga, Bob Miller, George Murray, Fred Parker, James Patterson, Frank Pettice, Ronald Reif, Sonya Reschly, Marvin Sanderman, Bob Schell, Bing & Nancy Seibold, Paul Sposito, Steve Stewart, Bob Stoller, Muriel Underwood, Jackie Wilson, David Whitcher, Ted Zimmerman.

## THE NEW BOOKS

Compiled by C. Robert Douglas



- Pryor, Dayton. *The Beginning and the End: The Civil War Story of Federal Surrenders Before Fort Sumter and Confederate Surrenders After Appomattox*. Heritage Books. 2001. \$34.00.
- Regosin, Elizabeth. *Freedom's Promise: Ex-Slave Families and Citizenship in the Age of Emancipation*. U. Press of Virginia. 2002. \$49.50.
- Sawyer, Timothy, ed. *Letters From a Civil War Surgeon: Dr. William Child of the Fifth New Hampshire Volunteers*. Polar Bear & Co., P.O. Box 311, Solon, ME 04979. 2002. Pbk. \$25.00.
- Schellhammer, Michael, ed. *The 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers in the Civil War*. McFarland & Co. 2003. \$39.95.
- Sears, Stephen W. *Gettysburg*. Houghton Mifflin Co. 2003. \$30.00.
- Simon, John Y. and Harold Holzer, eds. *The Lincoln Forum: Discovering Abraham Lincoln*. Fordham U. Press. 2002. \$20.00.
- Steers, Edward. *The Trial: The Assassination of President Lincoln and the Trial of the Conspirators*. U. of Kentucky Press. 2003. \$55.00.
- Trostel, Scott D. *The Lincoln Funeral Train*. CAM-TECH Press. 2002. \$49.00.

### NEW MEMBERS

- Russ Broman, 2002 Worcester Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15243, 412-257-3163
- Ben C. George, 1230 N. State Parkway, #12-C. Chicago, IL 60612, 312-787-5389
- Kirk C. Jenkins, 98 Graymoor Lane, Olympia Fields, IL 60461, 708-679-9490
- Marc Kunis, 814 Flower Avenue, Venice, CA 90291

### 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.

### 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), or online at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) or [amazon.com](http://amazon.com).

In addition to The Round Table history and *The Continuing Civil War*, a collection of essays from the Fiftieth Anniversary Proceedings, the following items are generally available at each monthly meeting: Lapel pins, Mugs, Meeting Tapes and CDs, and Civil War Buff posters.

Proceeds from the sale of these items go to support the Battlefield Preservation Fund of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago.

### AU REVOIR

This is my last issue of the Newsletter of The Civil War Round Table of Chicago. I have been working on the Newsletter since 1987, when I was recruited by Dave Richert and Bob Douglas. I succeeded Dave as editor in September of 1989. For most of those years, my association with this organization has been very rewarding and I have enjoyed doing much work on behalf of the Chicago Round Table.

In 1989 and 1990, I spent countless hours researching and writing the history of this Round Table and the Round Table Movement, *The Civil War Round Table: Fifty Years of Scholarship and Fellowship*. I conducted many taped interviews with people associated with the Round Table, past and present, and had the book ready—with the able assistance of graphic artist Muriel Underwood—in time to make its debut at our gala three-day 50th Anniversary Celebration, in October of 1990.

It was a labor of love and I was pleased that the book received so many excellent reviews in historical journals. Other jobs I have done for the Round Table over these last 17 years have included writing brochures and other materials, giving talks about the Round Table Movement in various parts of the country, chairing the 1993 tour to Vicksburg, and serving as your president for the 1994-1995 term.

I will cherish my friendships with many Round Table members and very fondly remember my years working with my mentor, the late Ralph G. Newman—the primary founder of this, the very first Civil War Round Table, and thus of the Round Table Movement in this country and the world.

Goodbye and thank so many of you for your friendship.

Barbara Hughett  
Newsletter Editor, 1989-2004

## 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*.

June 11: Mark Bradley. "I Rely Upon Your Good Judgement and Skill": The Command Partnership Between Robert E. Lee and Joseph E. Johnston in 1865"

September 10: Brigadier General Parker Hills, U.S. Army, Retired, "The Vicksburg Campaign (General Hills will accompany the Round Table on its 2005 tour to Vicksburg.)"

October 15: Dr. Robert Zaworski, "An Underwater Look at the Monitor" (Note: This meeting is on the **third** Friday of the month.)

April 8, 2005: Terry Winschel, Nevins-Freeman Address, "Stephen Dill Lee: The Making of an American Shrine" (Terry Winschel is our 2004 Nevins-Freeman honoree and a guide for the Vicksburg tour.)

### "IN DEPTH: HAROLD HOLZER"

This Round Table's 2002 Nevins-Freeman honoree, distinguished Lincoln scholar and author Harold Holzer, will appear on C-SPAN 2's "Book TV" series, which features prominent authors, for a three-hour discussion about his life and work. It will air on Sunday, June 6, at 11:00 a.m., CDT. You may call in during the program to speak with Mr. Holzer during the live broadcast, or email your question prior to or during the broadcast, to [booktv@c-span.org](mailto:booktv@c-span.org). The program will be re-aired at 5:00 p.m. on June 6 and at 12:00 a.m. on June 7.

The Ulysses S. Grant Cottage State Historic Site in Saratoga Springs, New York, reopens on May 29, and will be open on Wednesdays-Sundays from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. through Labor Day; and on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. through Columbus Day. Special events include a July 24 tea and auction and an August 8 concert by folksinger Linda Russell and readings commemorating Grant's death, which occurred on July 23, 1885, at the cottage. On the second Saturday of each month, the cottage hosts a special "Saturday on the Porch" program. For information, call 518-587-8277.